

Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 8

PH volcano erupts

By AARON FAVILA and JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAGAYTAY, Philippines (AP)—A small volcano near the Philippine capital that draws tourists for its picturesque

setting in a lake erupted with a massive plume of ash and steam Sunday, prompting the evacuation of tens of thousands of people and forcing Manila's international airport to shut down.

See **VOLCANO** on **Page 4**

Taal volcano releases ash and smoke during an eruption in Tagaytay, Cavite province south of Manila, Philippines, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.

AP/BULLIT MARQUEZ

NWS monitoring NI volcanoes

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

With the eruption of the Taal Volcano in the Philippines last Sunday, the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam is

keeping a close eye on the volcanic islands within the Marianas to monitor any signs of restiveness.

In a phone interview with NWS meteorologist Landon

See **NWS** on **Page 4**

DUE TO TAAL ERUPTION Skymark cancels flight yesterday

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Due to the eruption of Taal Volcano in the Philippines, Skymark Airlines Inc.'s flight from Saipan to Narita, Ja-

pan was cancelled yesterday, while United Airlines flights between Guam and Manila were cancelled Sunday.

Skymark Airlines International Flight Preparation Of-

See **SKYMARK** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Ajisen Ramen, a Japan-based fast food chain restaurant, has moved to a new location.

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NATION

Severe weekend weather has been blamed for 11 deaths and major damage in parts of the U.S.

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ASIA

Crews battling Australia's wildfires have been able to turn from defense to offense.

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Local



RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lt. Gov. Arnold J. Palacios, seventh from left front row, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan, ninth from left front row, pose with anti-human trafficking advocates after the proclamation signing of January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month last Jan. 10, at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Torres named NMI honorary state chair for Trump campaign

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has been named as Trump campaign honorary state chair for the Northern Mariana Islands by the Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. and the Republican National Committee over the weekend.

"I am honored by this announcement and the trust our President has in placing me in this esteemed position at this critical moment in our nation's history," Torres said in a statement. "President Trump has been an incredible friend

to the CNMI and working closely with his administration throughout the course of his first term has resulted in great progress for our people."

The governor also thanked Trump for being an advocate for the CNMI and "for being an exemplary example of continuing to lead despite political tactics aiming to impede progress," and added that he looks forward to working with the President in the years to come.

Aside from Torres, seven others from the U.S. island territories were called in by the Trump-Pence campaign and the RNC to advance the agenda of

Trump and the Republicans in the upcoming elections.

These include Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez for Puerto Rico, Delegate Aumua Amata for American Samoa, former governors Eddie Calvo and Felix Perez Camacho for Guam, and Lt. Cmdr. Vince Danet and Steve Hardy for the U.S. Virgin Islands. Brian Barrett was named Trump Victory regional political director.

"President Trump has fought on behalf of all Americans since Day 1 and the results of his common sense, pro-growth, pro-family poli-

cies can be seen across the nation and our territories," said Brad Parscale, Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. campaign manager, and RNC chairwoman Tonna McDaniel

Pet owners urged to speak out vs animal cruelty

Animal lovers in the community are being urged to speak out against animal cruelty this Jan. 16 when a Senate committee takes up House Bill 21-59 HS1 this Thursday.

The committee will meet at 10am at the Senate President's conference room in the Legislature on Capital Hill.

Bill author Rep. Edwin K.

in a joint statement.

"Support of President Trump is growing daily, and this is a direct result of him delivering on his promises," the statement further read. "Whether

Propst (Ind-Saipan) is encouraging the public to call on their senators and urge them to pass the bill.

According to Propst, the CNMI is still the only place in the entire United States and all its territories that has zero animal protection laws for domesticated animals. Propst also stated that he has a good feel-

ing this time about the Senate and the governor signing off on it. He hopes that this will happen, with the help of the community and animal lovers.

To submit comments on this bill, email written testimony before Jan. 16 to sen.igiso-mar@gmail.com or attend the meeting to give an oral testimony. (Justine Nauta)

Tourism Topics

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www.mymarianas.com/the-marianas-calendar

- 2020 Saipan Marathon
March 14, 2020
- Tagaman
March 21, 2020

Medical referrals cost CNMI \$15 million in 2019

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

In a bid to cut down on the \$15-million medical referral costs that the CNMI incurred in 2019, the government is looking for ways to reduce this fraction of government spending.

"For every single fiscal year, the Commonwealth government has always had

a longstanding deficit of having to deal with the Medical Referral program," said government spokesman Kevin Bautista. "The Medical Referral program has always been something where that deficits almost always exist."

In the simplest terms, the medical referral program allows for patients who could not be treated on island to be

referred for off-island treatment, whether in Guam, Hawaii, or in the Philippines.

Bautista explained that the Commonwealth government has been on a limited budget for the most part of fiscal year 2019 because of austerity measures that were implemented to stay within budget.

"Our budget was cut down by \$30 million. For us to stay

within that was important. When the deficit occurs, it's usually medical referral. And then the small fraction of it is also overtime costs for law enforcement, [Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Corrections, and Division of Customs]," he said.

Aetna Insurance

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and legislators also recently met about steps that could be taken to keep medical referral costs down.

House vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said that they talked about the initiative that the governor has implemented, which is, for Aetna Insurance to handle all the appointments of each patient for their specific medical needs and taking care of insurance requirements, including documentations.

"The administration assured us that we would see a significant 40% reduction in costs by allowing Aetna to provide this particular services for the medical referral office of the Commonwealth," Deleon Guerrero added.

The lawmaker also said that during the meeting, the governor insisted that the Health Committee chairs of both the

House and Senate, Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan) and Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), respectively, meet with Medical Referral Services director Ronald Sablan to discuss all issues concerned.

"We felt that is the first step that we should take and then hear it from the chairpersons, and give us a report on what they have discussed."

"Medical referral is a huge challenge because of the increases in medical expertise in different fields that we don't have, which is not available here in the CNMI so we end up sending folks overseas. ... We are taking steps in regards to reducing the deficit incurred by the medical referral office," Deleon Guerrero added.

What's next?

Aside from having Aetna Insurance come in, other medical referral cost-reduction measures proposed include reaching out to private health clinics to complement the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"It was proposed also that we reach out to a private health clinic or a health center to assist in reducing the inflow of patients at our local hospital, our only local hospital. It was proposed during our meeting, [that] we look into a private

health clinic to complement the hospital," Deleon Guerrero said.

Another proposal is to invest in local facilities.

"What we would also like to look at is identifying at least \$10 million and give it to the hospital, and the hospital would purchase all the equipment that we don't have and that would be one way of reducing the cost of medical referrals," the vice speaker said.

This was echoed by Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) who, for this year, has identified improving the local healthcare industry among his priorities.

"The government spends an average of \$15 million sending our patients off island for medical treatment that cannot be performed here," Sablan said. "I have this vision of beginning to invest in our facility here."

"If we start coming to the table and saying let's invest in an MRI machine or some equipment that's needed for the physicians and providers to provide quality health care, we could decrease that number [of medical referrals]."

Doing so would also decrease the burden on the families that need to go with their loved ones on these trips, Sablan added.

IRS files tax lien vs ex-IPI subcontractor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

Accusing it of failing to pay \$56,749 in taxes, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service filed yesterday a notice of tax lien against a former subcontractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino-resort project in Garapan.

According to IRS documents filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the taxes, including interest and penalties assessed against Beilida Overseas CNMI Ltd. ending for tax period 2018, remain unpaid.

"There is a lien in favor of the United States on all property and rights to property belonging to this taxpayer for the amount of these taxes, and additional penalties,

interest, and costs that may accrue," said a revenue officer in the notice of federal tax lien.

IRS claimed that Beilida Overseas owes Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return in the amount of \$5,677; \$44,717; and \$6,354 for tax period ending June 30, 2018; Sept. 30, 2018; and Dec. 31, 2018, respectively.

According to then-assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto, the Federal Bureau of Investigation searched the offices of Beilida on Saipan in 2017 and discovered spreadsheets in Chinese titled "Beilida Complete Personnel Accommodation Statistics Chart," which listed over 150 workers as *hei gong*, a term commonly used to refer to "undocumented worker."

The FBI's searches stemmed from an incident when a Chinese national died after falling from a scaffold at IPI's casino-resort construction site on March 22, 2017. The searches ended up with an indictment against five persons for harboring illegal alien workers.

The illegal Chinese workers were found to have entered the CNMI as tourists and were working at IPI's casino-resort project. Indicted were a supervisor, president, and two staff of Beilida Overseas, and a project manager of another contractor of IPI.

Except the president of Beilida, who was not arrested, all defendants entered guilty pleas and were subsequently sentenced in federal court.

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Man allegedly stole victim's underwear

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Renato Paz Gaviola, 53, was arrested last Friday for allegedly stalking a woman and going as far as allegedly taking her underwear that were hung on a clothesline outside her home and getting off on them before returning the item.

According to court documents, Gaviola was arrested on the grounds

of stalking after he was caught on surveillance camera lurking outside the victim's home before she came home from work, taking her underwear, and later returning it.

The victim told police that she had seen Gaviola roaming outside her residence in Garapan on multiple occasions for over a year. This prompted her to install surveillance cameras outside her home.

The victim said that when she ar-

rived home from work on Jan. 6, she found that one of her undergarments that she had hung outside to dry appeared soiled. The victim later reviewed the surveillance footage of that day and saw a man she identified to be Gaviola take her underwear, enter a vehicle for five minutes, before returning her underwear.

The victim told police that she felt very unsafe and feared for the safety of her 6-year-old daughter and feared

that he would one day hurt them.

In an interview with Gaviola on Jan. 10, he told police that he was the man on the footage and that he went to the victim's home at around 11:30am on Jan. 6.

Gaviola also admitted that it was not the first time he took the victim's undergarments and got off on them, that the captured footage was his second time.

Gaviola told police that he often fantasized about the victim, that he would often watch the victim when she wasn't looking.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio initially imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Gaviola. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo granted Gaviola's request to modify his bail yesterday, allowing his release to a third-party custodian if he is able to post 10% of his initial bail with the \$4,500 left as unsecured bond.

Gaviola was not able to set bail.

Gaviola is ordered to return to court on Jan. 21 at 1:30pm for a preliminary hearing and his arraignment on Feb. 24.

VOLCANO

From Page 1

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Taal Volcano in Batangas province south of Manila blasted steam, ash and pebbles up to 10 to 15 kilometers (6 to 9 miles) into the sky in a dramatic escalation of its growing restiveness, which began last year.

The volcanology institute raised the danger level around Taal three notches on Sunday to level 4, indicating "a hazardous eruption may happen within hours or days," said Renato Solidum, who heads the volcanology institute. Level 5, the highest, means a hazardous eruption is underway and could affect a larger area.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but authorities scrambled to evacuate more than 6,000 villagers from an island in the middle of a lake, where the volcano lies, and tens of thousands more from nearby coastal towns, officials said. About 300,000 people were targeted to be moved to safety in Batangas overnight and in the next few days.

"We have asked people in high-risk areas, including the volcano island, to evacuate now ahead of a possible hazardous eruption," Solidum said.

Renelyn Bautista, a 38-year-old housewife who was among thousands of residents who fled from Batangas province's Laurel town, said she hitched a ride to safety from her home with her two children, including a 4-month-old baby, after Taal erupted and the ground shook mildly.

"We hurriedly evacuated when the air turned muddy because of the ash-



A family rides their motorcycle through clouds of ash as they evacuate to safer grounds as Taal volcano in Tagaytay, Cavite province, southern Philippines on Monday, Jan. 13, 2020.

AP

fall and it started to smell like gunpowder," Bautista said by phone.

Fallen ash covered the runways at Manila's international airport Sunday night. All departing and arriving international and domestic flights were suspended "due to volcanic ash in the vicinity of the airport" and nearby air routes, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

Taal lies around 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Manila.

Aviation officials also ordered the closure of Clark International Airport north of the capital after ash fell in the area. Authorities said they were considering diverting flights to unaf-

ected airports outside Manila.

Norwegian Tonny Roger, who had flown to the Philippines to visit his wife, said he wasn't happy that his flight back to Norway was canceled, but he thought of the bright side.

"Well, I can see her more. I will go back to her now," he told The Associated Press at Manila's international airport.

The volcanology institute reminded the public that the small island where the volcano lies is a "permanent danger zone," although fishing villages have existed there for years. It asked nearby coastal communities "to take precautionary measures and be vigilant of possi-

ble lake water disturbances related to the ongoing unrest."

Heavy to light ashfall was reported in towns and cities several kilometers (miles) from the volcano, and officials advised residents to stay indoors and don masks and goggles for safety. Motorists were hampered by poor visibility, which was worsened by rainy weather.

Hotels, shopping malls and restaurants line an upland road along a ridge overlooking the lake and the volcano in Tagaytay city, a key tourism area that could be affected by a major eruption.

Authorities recorded a swarm of earthquakes, some of them felt with rumbling sounds, and a slight inflation of portions of the 1,020-

foot (311-meter) volcano ahead of Sunday's steam-driven explosion, officials said.

Classes in a wide swath of towns and cities were suspended Monday, including in Manila, to avoid health risks posed by the ashfall.

One of the world's smallest volcanoes, Taal is among two dozen active volcanoes in the Philippines, which lies along the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically active region that is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

About 20 typhoons and other major storms each year also lash the Philippines, which lies between the Pacific and the South China Sea, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

NWS

From Page 1

Aydlett, he said there are a number of volcanic islands and underwater volcanoes within the Marianas archipelago and that NWS has been keeping an eye out for any seismic activity in the Marianas. Fortunately, there have been no signs of imminent danger thus far, Aydlett said.

"We do have a number of volcanoes in the Northern Islands. Anatahan is a volcanic island as well as Pagan and there are a number of underwater seamounts through the Northern Mariana Islands. We're watching for any kind of activity and, from time to time, we'll see steam come out of Pagan Island,

but it's been a number of years since the last major eruption on Pagan or Anatahan, about 15 years ago, so volcanic activity is always something we have to look for but, as far as seeing any signs of imminent, dangerous eruptions in our region, we're not seeing that at this point," he said.

As for the eruption of Taal, Aydlett said there is no direct threat to Guam or the CNMI.

"All the ash and debris north of Luzon area, that's kept well to our west and no threat to us," he said.

However, NWS issued a press release stating that numerical forecast model trajectories show volcanic ash clouds in the mid- and upper atmosphere, or above 15,000 feet, that will disperse to the north and north-north-

east over the northern Philippines and to the northeast out to sea. Volcanic debris in the lower atmosphere, or below 15,000 feet, will disperse to the southwest.

Because of this, the Marianas could see a light haze on Tuesday evening but NWS expects no issues for those with respiratory problems.

Aydlett mentioned that the volcanology agency in the Philippines continues to monitor the eruption and will warn if there is a possible volcanic tsunami.

"But that's no threat to us. Any tsunami related to this eruption will be only in the Taal Lake in the Batangas province. That's going to be confined only in that lake if something does occur of that nature," he said.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

fice assistant general manager Fohn Juruya told *Saipan Tribune* that they cancelled yesterday's Saipan-Narita flight and that they are now planning an extra (rescue) flights, subject to the final weather check this morning, Tuesday, for those passengers that were originally coming in yesterday from Narita, and for those passengers originally going out yesterday for Narita.

Furuya said two flights for today, Tuesday, will be operated as normal and on schedule, but subject to the final weather check.

Furuya said he was just lucky enough to arrive on Saipan last Sunday.

Meanwhile, Corporate Communications of United Airlines said the airline's Guam-Manila 183 flight and Manila-Guam 184 flight were cancelled Sunday due to the volcanic eruption.

"We continue to monitor the situation and protect the affected customers with the first available flights," according to a United statement.

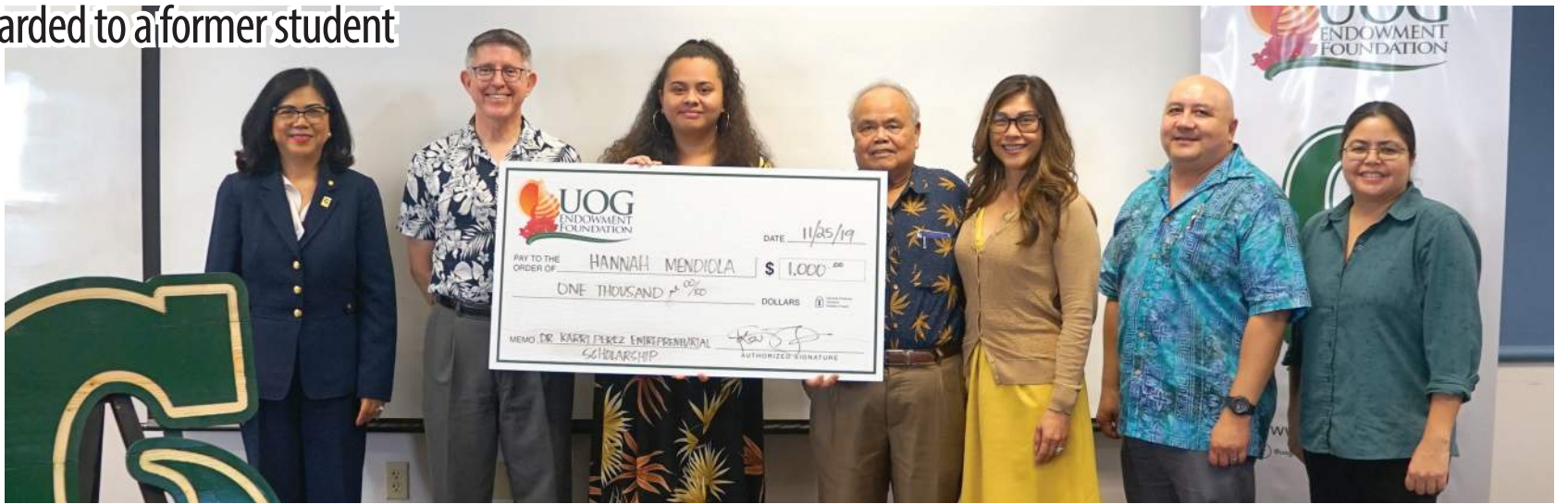
Thousands of residents were evacuated from municipalities near Taal as the volcano reportedly continued to spew lava and ash early morning yesterday, with ash clouds reaching the Metro Manila area.

UOG scholarship awarded to a former student

Hannah Mendiola, a Bachelor of Business Administration major at the University of Guam, is the first recipient of the Dr. Karri Perez Entrepreneurial Scholarship. The \$1,000 award is a memorial scholarship established by the family of the late Karri Perez, a long-serving faculty member at the university's School of Business and Public Administration who passed away last January.

With an MBA and a doctorate in human and organizational systems, Perez taught global resources management and was well-known in the community as a business consultant and trainer in organizational leadership, human resources, and project management as well as a leader of many service organizations.

"My wife, Karri, had a passion while she was teaching here," said Karri Perez's husband, Gerald Perez, who, with an interdisciplinary doctorate in tourism development and public policy, serves as an adjunct faculty member at the university. "Her passion was translating academic exercise in the classroom to the real world, having come from the corporate world herself. ...She was so passionately supportive of individuality, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance, so it was in that spirit that we



From left, Anita Borja Enriquez, senior vice president of academic and student affairs; Thomas W. Krise, president; Hannah Mendiola; Gerald Perez, husband of Karri Perez and adjunct faculty at UOG; Annette Santos, dean of the School of Business and Public Administration; Lawrence F. Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success; and Katrina T. Perez, executive director of the UOG Endowment Foundation.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

established this scholarship." The scholarship was specifically for students with an interest in entrepreneurship and a minimum GPA of 2.5. Mendiola is a former student of Perez.

The UOG Endowment Foundation, which administers scholarship funds donated to the university, encourages members of the public to support the education of local students by establishing scholarships that align with an industry or career of particular interest or in memory of those who have passed. Individuals and companies may also make tax-deductible donations to any existing scholarship fund or to a particular school or college within the university at give.uog.edu. (PR)

IPI wants Pacific Rim suit nixed, saying no mediation took place

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC asserts that no mediation happened between it and its former contractor prior to Pacific Rim Land Development LLC suing IPI, and therefore the federal court should dismiss the case.

IPI, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, said that any dispute between Pacific Rim and IPI was supposed to go through mediation first—as required under their contract—prior to taking the case to court. Horey said this did not happen before Pacific Rim sued IPI, and has not taken place since.

Horey then asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss the lawsuit until such time that the parties have attempted to resolve the dispute through mediation.

"At the very least, it should be stayed until mediation has taken place," said Horey in IPI's motion to dismiss.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin Thompson, is suing

IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract (construction and promissory note), and unjust enrichment.

Pacific Rim claimed to have substantially completed or completed the agreed-upon construction work on Sept. 30, 2018. Thompson said the unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million, but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would proven at trial.

In IPI's motion to dismiss, Horey said the contract requires that, before any kind of "binding dispute resolution" over any "controversy or claim arising out of or relating to" the contract can take place, the parties must first try to resolve the dispute between them by negotiation, and if negotiation is unsuccessful, by mediation.

Horey said Pacific Rim fails to state that mediation took place prior to the onset of litigation, or indeed that it ever took place at all.

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Be the first Congressional Awardee in the CNMI

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

Want to be the first Congressional Awardee in the CNMI?

The Congressional Award, the highest honor awarded to youth constituents by a member of Congress, has yet to be claimed in the Northern Marianas.

"To date no young person from our islands has earned the award," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said. "That honor of being the first ever is still possible for some young man or woman."

The challenge to be the CNMI's first awardee is on, with Sablan encouraging the islands' youth to register with the program, and to have fun while participating.

"The Congressional Award is not a competition with other young people," Sablan said. "It is a competition with yourself, a way to find out just what you are capable of achieving as an individual and of what you, as an individual, can do to make your community a better place."

The award is earned by accumulating hours in volunteering, personal development, physical fitness, and in taking on an individual challenge. It

is a "fun and interesting way" to get awarded for something a young person already enjoys doing, or something he or she would like to try for the first time.

To pursue the award, participants have to register at www.congressionalaward.org, and set goals for themselves, and complete them at his or her own pace, in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

"There are many service-oriented, active, and determined youth [on] our islands. I believe in our young people and look forward to seeing them get the recognition they deserve through a Congressional Award," Sablan said.

Activities of those CNMI youth who are already active in a service organization, or with musical or artistic endeavors, sports teams, or community service work, may already be a start toward earning the Congressional Award.

Since its founding, Congressional Award participants have already contributed 8.1 million hours of service to their communities.

Since the award is also a great way to bolster college

applications and résumés, for schools, clubs, or organizations interested in informational presentations about the

Congressional Award for your students or youth membership, email kilili@mail.house.gov to schedule a session.

To learn more about the Congressional Award, visit <http://sablan.house.gov> or call (670) 323-2647. You can also

visit www.congressionalaward.org to register online and access the electronic version of the official program book.

Students of SFA will host first student-led wahoo tournament



The Saipan Fishermen's Association receives a \$2,500 donation from J & MJ Mobil that will fund the first student-led wahoo tournament. From left, Wayne Pangelinan, Joseph Fital, Pete Reyes, Malaina Kileleman, and Anthony Wenceslao.

JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Fishermen's Association, a non-profit organization, received a donation of \$2,500 from the J & MJ Mobil last Jan. 13 at the Mobil

gas station on Middle Road in Garapan for the first wahoo tournament that is being organized by students under the mentorship of SFA.

The Saipan's Youth Fishing Club, which is composed of 47 students from Da'ok Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, and Marianas High School who joined the eight-month-long program, is organizing the wahoo tournament, which will be held on Feb. 29.

SFA spokesman Wayne Pangelinan said the tournament is a fundraising activity and all proceeds that are raised will go to the SFA youth program to "further carry out opportunities" and to also provide prizes and awards on the day of the tournament itself.

The SFA youth program

not only teaches the youth the rudiments of fishing. "It's not only about fishing but about sustainable living using the resources we have. It's about all the different methods and tactics, a lot of skill sets that are not necessarily passed down today," said Pangelinan.

Former senator Pete Reyes, who is also a member of the SFA, said the eight-month-long program under the SFA focuses on the youth, "and to hopefully take the youth away from other activities that can be dangerous or criminal. It's to teach them a hobby that would be beneficial for them and their family."

Mobil, which has been supporting SFA's Saipan International Fishing Derby for the past 35 years, also donated \$2,500 to SFA last Sept. 5

to facilitate the association's outreach through the Da'ok Academy, which is a non-traditional high school.

"It's important to support the youth programs and it's so fortunate that the SFA is able to lend their expertise to help the youth, and just to have this opportunity to support the SFA and Saipan's Youth Fishing Club so they can lead the first ever wahoo tournament is exciting," said Mobil Fuel area manager Anthony Wenceslao.

The wahoo tournament will be open to everyone who is interested. Registration will be on Feb. 28 at the Smiling Cover in Garapan from 4pm to 5:30pm. Then the wahoo tournament will be at the Smiling Cove in Garapan on Feb. 29 from 6am to 5pm. Awards will be given right after.

Saipan writers' workshop on Jan. 25 at JKPL


In an interactive three-hour workshop on Saturday, Jan. 25, author Walt Goodridge will share step-by-step instructions on how to successfully start your book project,

overcome "writer's block," find the best and worst times to write, edit, layout and publish independently, and even go from idea to sales in 24 hours or less.

Goodridge is is author of over two dozen books in a variety of genres and has written, or collaborated with others on, several books.

This workshop will be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, from 9am to 12pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Video Teleconference Room. Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. Twenty percent of admission proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event.

Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library. For more information, and to see some photos and success stories from past workshops, visit www.saipan-writers.com. (PR)



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CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP20-CHCC/CGC-DCMP-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 27, 2020 TIME: 10:00 AM

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **RFP's** TAB ON THE BOTTOM NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Emergency water service interruption in Gualo Rai**

There is currently an emergency water service interruption in effect for the Gualo Rai area for customers in the streets of Chalan Pale Arnold (near Chongs Refrigeration to the Gualo Rai Road traffic light) and Gualo Rai Road (from the intersection toward Beach Road near True Value Hardware).

The cause of the water service interruption is due to a 16-inch distribution waterline leak on the shoulder of the northbound lane in front of Kylie's Bakery in Gualo Rai. The repair work is anticipated to be completed this morning at 6:30am, Tuesday. Water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Free government contracting training

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free workshops to the public for January 2020. Workshops run from 9am to 10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131 (unless otherwise specified):

■ Jan. 16: SBIR/STTR Programs—The Small Busi-

ness Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how innovators can get involved.

■ Jan. 23: Government of Guam Procurement—The Guam PTAC will explain government of Guam procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

■ Jan. 30: DLA Internet Bid Board System—The DLA Internet Bid Board System provides the capability to search for, view, and submit secure quotes for DLA supply RFQs, RFPs, and IFBs. The Guam PTAC will guide you through the process of setting up an account and navigating the system.

For project management professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals!

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com. Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)

NMC Adult Basic Education Program schedules

The Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education or ABE program, which focuses on meeting the educational needs of adult learners, has announced the following dates for Session 3:

■ Jan. 13-17, 2020

□ CASAS Placement Testing: 1pm (by appointment only), Bldg. M-2

□ Registration: 10am - 5pm, Bldg. M

Jan. 27, 2020: First day of instruction

□ Feb. 24-27, 2020: Student evaluation of instructor & class

□ March 9, 2020: Last day of instruction (Post-testing for those with 40-plus hours of instruction)

New students and those who have been out of the ABE program for more than a year must make an appointment at the Adult Basic Education Office located in Building M to take the CASAS Assessment Test. Note that this schedule is subject to change. For additional information, contact ABE at 237-6713 or

email abe.info@marianas.edu. (PR)

Saturday writing workshops

The Marianas Writers Movement will have a series of Saturday workshops. Each workshop will be two hours, beginning at 1:30pm in the VTC Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The workshops, "Beyond the First Draft," will focus on the editing process. These workshops are open to all over age 13, and are free.

Each workshop is different in content. Here is the tentative schedule for topics:

■ Jan. 18 Workshop 1: Intro

to editing

■ Jan. 25 Workshop 2: How to be a beta reader

■ Feb. 1 Workshop 3: Writing a critique/editorial report

■ Feb. 8 Workshop 4: Line editing thoughts

■ Feb. 15 Workshop 5: Pitching your novel

■ Feb. 22 Workshop 6: Resources/Hands-on/Feedback/Q&A (PR)

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting today

The Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting today, Jan. 14, 2020, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View

Middle School cafeteria. Along with the PTSA president's report, the agenda will include systems of care service for at-risk youth and young adults experiencing emotional challenges; health information for families, children and youth with special health care needs; and fiscal year 2020-2021 budget proposals of Kagman Elementary, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, and Kagman High School. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)



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 2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER Magnetic Gray Metallic, Est. Mileage: 34,675 Stock #R19040F, Was \$24,999 NOW \$21,999*	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 4em; color: blue; margin-right: 10px;">GO</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">places</p> </div> <div style="border: 2px solid yellow; padding: 10px; transform: rotate(5deg); background-color: yellow;"> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">\$1,000*</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Travel Voucher</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">on United Airlines</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">with your new Toyota from AK.</p> </div> </div>			 2017 TOYOTA RAV4 Electric Storm Blue, Est. Mileage: 13,820 Stock #U19095R NOW \$23,499*	
 2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X2 Super White, Est. Mileage: 26,819 Stock #R19058F NOW \$24,799*	 2018 TOYOTA RAV4 HYBRID Black, Est. Mileage: 12,232 Stock #U19113R NOW \$25,999*	 <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-around;">   <div> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">4RUNNER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">*Conditions apply. See dealer for more details. Available on select models.</p> </div> </div>			 2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X2 Magnetic Gray, Est. Mileage: 20,201 Stock #R19049F NOW \$24,999*
 2016 CHEVY EXPRESS 15-passenger van, Olympic White, Mileage: 2,351. V8, Stock #U19060R, Was \$32,999 NOW \$26,688*			 2019 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4 Off-road Package, Cement Gray, Est. Mileage: 1,651, Stock #U19121P NOW \$42,799*		

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action
GALLUS AMBROS) No. 19-0120
SABLAN REYES)
(a.k.a.) **SECOND**
Gallo S. Reyes) **AMENDED**
(Gallus Ambrosio) **NOTICE OF**
Sablan Delos Reyes,) **HEARING ON**
Deceased.) **PETITION FOR**
) **DECREE OF**
) **FINAL**
) **DISTRIBUTION**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Second Amended Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in the above-entitled matter will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge, on the 20th day of February, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

Dated this 10th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Judge Camacho Joseph Norita

'Create Marpi Public Park and charge fees to enter area'

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With legislators being asked to craft revenue-generating bills to help the CNMI economy, Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) is a step ahead with a bill that would introduce the charging of fees for access to a proposed Marpi Public Park.

Co-authored with Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan), H.B. 21-72 unanimously passed the House in October and is now in the Senate under the Natural Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Francisco Manglona Borja (R-Tinian).

Along with the revitalization of the Tanapag Youth Center and the restoration of the Pau Pau Beach, the proposed Marpi Public Park



IVA MAURIN

File photo shows Bird Island in Marpi. The CNMI economy could get a boost from fees that tourists would have to pay to access Bird Island, and five other north Saipan destinations, if the Marpi Public Park bill is enacted.

remains as one of Babauta's focus this new year. The park includes the Grotto, Suicide Cliff, Banzai Cliff Lookout, Bird Island, Kalabera Cave, and the Last Command Post.

"I wanted to move away from the band-aid approach

and focus on long-term solutions [and] making a lasting, positive impact," the legislator said. "I'm aware that long-term solutions take time. We just have to start. I decided to focus my efforts on charging fees for our tourist sites to sup-

port environmental protection and conservation while generating revenue and encouraging small business development."

One massive way to generate revenue today is charging fees for tourist sites, Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan's major tourist sites are a large part of Precinct 4, where Babauta is a representative.

As the north side of Saipan is a mix of private and public property, the challenge is to be creative in charging fees. The

bill currently allows the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to develop the regulations that would govern the park, which would include the fee structure.

"By charging fees to our tourist sites in the north, we'll be able to reinvest into our community and enhance the Marpi area, like ensure working restrooms and clean, safe sites for our tourists and our residents to enjoy," Babauta said.

One of the proposed regulations would be the establishment of educational and community outreach programs, and training and development responsibilities, like tour guide trainings. The bill could also open up potential business and income opportunities from within the community.

"There will be a need for small business contracts, which I hope encourages our residents to start their own businesses," Babauta added. "Our visitors want to meet our local people, they want to learn about our lives, and what better way to educate our tourists than from our very own people."

DOI gives A. Samoa \$490,000 to fight measles, expand vaccinations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior has given American Samoa \$490,000 to help fight the prevent the spread of measles in the U.S. territory and to help bolster efforts to vaccinate the entire population with the Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine.

"We are pleased to see that current efforts in American

Samoa have been effective in stabilizing and preventing the spread of measles in the territory," said Doug Domenech, DOI assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "This funding support will help American Samoa fully achieve their goal of bringing vaccination levels in the territory to 100% and bolster their

ongoing efforts."

"This timely financial assistance will go a long way to address the incurred financial expenditures emanating from the activities implemented to combat and preempt the spread of measles in American Samoa," said American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga. "I am truly thankful to the U.S. Department of the Interior and its Office of Insular and International Affairs for continuing to be very sensitive and responsive to the needs of the territory."

As a result of a measles outbreak late last year in other parts of the Pacific and in the neighboring state of Samoa where more than 80 people died from the disease, the U.S. territory declared a state of emergency on Nov. 13, 2019, to protect its residents

against the spread of measles. On Dec. 8, 2019, the state of emergency was extended with restrictions on public gatherings and the closure of public and private schools.

As part of its campaign to protect its population, the American Samoa government applied under the Technical Assistance Program for urgent needs funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to supplement an immunization campaign in the territory and conduct other protective measures. As stated by the ASG Department of Health in its application, 82% of the population in American Samoa has already been immunized with the MMR vaccination, and funding assistance was requested to provide immunizations for the remaining

18%, or 10,530 people, in the territory. OIA funding will also support the purchase of medical supplies, lab equipment, and border patrol efforts as part of the ASG's overall strategy to protect residents in the territory. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to be the territory's primary partner in these efforts.

To date, the total cases of measles confirmed through laboratory results has been 11. While restrictions on public gatherings have been lifted, and school has resumed, the territory remains in a continued state of public health emergency and anyone traveling to the territory is required to provide proof of MMR vaccination as a condition for entry. (PR)

ON THE NET

■ The full text of the American Samoa government declaration of public health emergency, dated Nov. 13, 2019, may be found at: https://9a29b536-1f2e-478c-95a9-38b007825134.filesusr.com/ugd/dba42c_b6cf6d4323c94fe-3be8426496f9df8b.pdf.

■ The full text of the American Samoa government declaration of continued public health emergency, dated Dec. 8, 2019, may be found

at: https://9a29b536-1f2e-478c-95a9-38b007825134.filesusr.com/ugd/dba42c_b6cf6d4323c94fe-3be8426496f9df8b.pdf.

■ The full text of the American Samoa government proclamation of amended restrictions during continued public health emergency, dated Dec. 16, 2019, may be found at: <https://6fe16cc8-c42f-411f-9950-4abb1763c703.file>.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 14, 1999

The coming economic circus

It was just a matter of time before calls came to increase the taxes on the garment industry yet again, and whispers to that effect are now starting to circulate. One proposal is to crank up the user tax by 35 percent, from the current 3.7 percent rate to a five percent rate. (And, yes, 3.7 percent to five percent is a 35 percent increase in the tax payment.) The Commonwealth may be in a classic graveyard spiral in which it winds up cranking up tax rates on a shrinking tax base. Meanwhile, trade barriers and tariffs are falling in north America. Asia's labor costs are still falling. The CNMI is relatively more expensive from a labor cost and tax cost standpoint than it was last year. Got that? More expensive.

Saipan legislators outline poker revenue use

A conflict may be brewing between administration officials and Saipan legislators over some \$1.9 million in revenues anticipated to be earned from the recent 33 percent increase in license fees for poker and pachinko slot machines on the island. Members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation apparently are hoping to set aside the money for the operations and personnel costs of the Office of the Mayor

as well as for other community programs initiated by local lawmakers. But the Tenorio administration has identified the poker fees as one source of funds to match federal money provided under the Capital Improvement Projects in a bid to push infrastructure development and help spur the island economy.

January 14, 2000

Jury says two men in gang-rape guilty

Almost two years after they were gang-raped, Wang-Quin Li and Hong- Jin Wang finally received justice when the six-man jury handed a guilty verdict to two of the four men who committed the heinous crime. Jose O. Rabauliman, 23, and Hadley F. Renguul, 22, were also found guilty of kidnapping, criminal oral copulation and voluntarily acted in concert with one another in committing the crime of rape. Kidnapping carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Since the crime committed was gang-rape, the two faces a maximum penalty of 20 years, according to Assistant Attorney General James J. Benedetto.

Door-to-door mail delivery remains farfetched

Saipan residents are not likely to see their mails delivered to their doorsteps unless the Commonwealth government fast-tracks the implementation of the street-naming project. CNMI Postmaster John San Nicolas disclosed the availability of the service depends on how fast the local government is able to complete the street-naming project, including the installation of street signs and house numbers. But home delivery of mails remains a part of the U.S. Postal Service's plan for the Northern Marianas, assured Mr. San Nicolas during the inauguration

of the new post office in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

January 14, 2005

Korea arrivals show first growth in 6 months

After six consecutive months of decline, arrivals from Korea posted a double-digit growth of 23 percent with a total of 6,492 visitors in December 2004 compared with December 2003. Several positive factors took place in December that contributed to the growth in arrivals from Korea. First, a group tour sponsored by iTour group, consisting of 1,000 visitors, arrived for their company's annual incentive trip. Secondly, to stimulate interest from the Korea travel agents and increase their tour sales to the CNMI, the MVA Korea office and Asiana Airlines coordinated a Volume Incentive Program. Travel agents were rewarded for exceptional sales based on monthly sales quota.

CNMI's Teacher of the Year to fly to DC, meet 55 others

CNMI Teacher of the Year Lavena C. Babauta will fly to Dallas, Texas on Jan. 19 in line with the preliminary activities that will honor Teacher of the Year awardees from 50 states and five territories. The weeklong conference will give the teachers a chance to know one another, and meet the four finalists for the national Teacher of the Year award. In April 2005, one will be selected and honored as national Teacher of the Year. Out of the 55 teacher awardees, the committee will narrow it down to four finalists and these four will be officially announced during the conference. Awarding of the national Teacher of the Year will be held in Washington, DC.

7 suing IPI insist \$30K-plus attorneys' fees, costs reasonable

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The seven persons who are suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its contractor and subcontractor over accidents at the worksite of IPI's casino-resort project in Garapan are insisting that their over \$30,000 costs and attorneys' fees are reasonable and well supported.

The seven plaintiffs, through Saipan lawyer Bruce Berline and New York City-based attorney Aaron Halegua, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant their motion for attorneys' fees and court costs and deny IPI's alleged attempts to re-litigate settled issues and its "baseless objections" to the motion.

The seven workers are now back in China.

Berline and Halegua said

despite the U.S. Supreme Court's instruction that a "request for attorney's fees should not result in a second major litigation," IPI has objected to nearly every aspect of the plaintiffs' motion for attorneys' fees—"albeit without much legal supports" for its positions or persuasive force.

The seven workers, through their two lawyers, have requested the court to award them \$31,801 in attorneys' fees and \$156 in costs in connection with their motion to compel.

At a hearing last Dec. 12, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the plaintiffs' counter-motion to compel IPI to respond to their discovery requests. Manglona ordered IPI to respond to all discovery requests.

The judge also granted the workers' motion to sanction IPI and ordered the company

to pay attorneys' fees to the plaintiffs/workers for bringing the motion to compel.

In the plaintiffs' motion for attorneys' fees and costs recently filed in court, Berline and Halegua said they were forced to spend considerable time researching and responding to IPI's discovery objections, participating in teleconferences, opposing IPI's motion for a protective order, and preparing their own motion to compel.

Berline and Halegua said their proposed hourly rates of \$300 for Berline and \$417 for Halegua are all reasonable.

Berline claimed he had spent 4.44 hours—for a total amount of \$1,332; Halegua claimed he had spent 68.3 hours—for a total amount of \$28,481.

In IPI's opposition, Kelley M. Butcher said the plaintiffs' request for over \$30,000 in

fees is "simply unreasonable and unsustainable."

Butcher said plaintiffs have failed to show the reasonableness of their hourly rates or the reasonableness of the number of hours claimed to have been expended in connection with the discovery dispute.

Butcher said plaintiffs only submitted the declaration of their counsel concerning the reasonableness of their attorneys' hourly rate.

In plaintiffs' reply to IPI's opposition filed Friday, Berline and Halegua said IPI "fatally ignores" the complexities created by having seven plaintiffs who only speak Chinese and are all located in China, three large corporate defendants that operate internationally, thousands of Chinese documents and files, and intricate legal questions under the Trafficking Victims Protection

Re-authorization Act.

Berline and Halegua said IPI has also provided no evidence to counter the plaintiffs' showing that no CNMI attorney has the skills and expertise to adequately represent the seven plaintiffs in this case, let alone the willingness to do so on a contingency basis.

The lawyers said in terms of hours, IPI—"without citing any relevant authority"—seeks to limit the plaintiffs' attorneys' fees award simply to the preparation and filing of the actual motion to compel itself.

However, they said, an attorneys' fees award under the rule is to include compensation for all the preceding steps the moving party was required to take to compel the production of discovery.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli

Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC, and MCC's subcontractor Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC.

The plaintiffs are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI, through counsel, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

Open house teaches what CRSP is all about

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Commonwealth Respite Service Program kicked off the program with a three-day open house last Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, from 10am to 3pm on Capital Hill.

CRSP administrative assistant Regina Terlaje said the open house was intended to educate the public about their office and to encourage the public to avail of their services.

"We want to welcome the community to come and use our services," she said. "Let us know how we can help you and we see if you are eligible for our program."

The main purpose of respite

care service providers is to help caregivers who don't have time for themselves. They will either go into a home during a scheduled time and relieve the primary caretaker for a period of time or utilize the Respite Service facility.

The open house drew a lot of people. "I feel very overwhelmed with the turnout actually. We did send out invitations since last week and we're all just happy to know that we have this much support for the center," said DCCA spokesperson Eulalia V. Arriola. "I know that we still have a ways to get it to where we want it to be but this is a very great start."

According to Arriola, there has already been calls to the facility from primary caregivers who want to know more

about the services that are being provided. They have already inked an agreement with Marianas Health Services to provide home care when needed.

"If anyone in the community is interested in learning more about [respite care], maybe in the future, they are interested in volunteering in the office or learning more about a program as we expand. We welcome them to come and check it out," said Arriola.

"I can't wait to start the program. I can't wait to start teaching on how to garden, that's my passion," said

Froilan Camacho, whose job is to check one's eligibility for respite care services, is "excited" about the program—a sentiment echoed by

Keoni Hosono, also of CRSP. "I know that this is something that our community can really benefit from here on the island," he said. "We just wanted to get the community to come in and be aware that we have this service available for those people who give full time care."

According to DCCA Secretary Robert H. Hunter, the open house for CRSP was supposed to happen in early November 2018 but, due to Super Typhoon Yutu, most of the staff were assigned to recovery duties and didn't get back to their office until last summer of 2019.

"We're really excited that we're finally getting off the ground," said Hunter.

The open house continued until Jan. 10, 2019.



Guests exchange pleasantries at the Commonwealth Respite Service Program open house last Wednesday.



JUSTINE NAUTA

Linda Torres, third from right, is joined by the staff and patients of the Center for Living Independently at the CRSP office on Capital Hill.



JUSTINE NAUTA

Commonwealth Respite Service Program staff. From left, Regina Terlaje, Linda Torres, Keoni Hosono, Froilan Camacho, and Eulalia V. Arriola at the CRSP office on Capital Hill.

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The United States should confront Iran, but it needs a coherent strategy to succeed

Count us among those who are not mourning the death of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani. Killing American soldiers is just one of many terrible things he did that leaves the world better without him in it. Also, count us among those who are grateful that President Donald Trump opted to de-escalate tension with Iran, possibly stopping a spiral into open war.

Beyond that, however, we cannot praise the president and his dealings with Iran, because we expect more from the administration than responding with deadly force to immediate crises that never should have been allowed to bring us to the brink of open conflict. What we expect is a strategy that has a reasonable chance to reshape the political landscape in favor of American interests and, more broadly, toward the expansion of human freedom.

That work should start with acknowledging the Iranian regime is a cancer on the Middle East. It is brutally oppressive. It employs terrorism as standard operating procedure. And its mistreatment of women, homosexuals and religious minorities is well beyond the pale of a civilized nation. The Iranian regime destroys the bonds of civil society that are necessary for democracy to flourish.

The spread of democracy is never easy. But the much needed spread of representative government in the Middle East has been hindered, and sometimes crippled, by the tyrants in Tehran who spread terror and chaos abroad and crush demands for greater freedom at home.

Acknowledging this fact about Iran's role in sowing chaos brings us to a fact about any successful strategy in the Middle East. What's needed is not ad hoc military operations, but a strategy for bolstering social and military institutions that protect, preserve and propagate democracy.

We believe that involves three broad strokes. Yes, military operations are necessary to degrade and destroy immediate security threats that range from the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq to terrorist organizations that operate where they can gain opportunity. Conducting these operations may entail deploying more American troops, or it might involve a different set of tactics. But the goal needs to remain preserving space for civil institutions to expand so that democracy can become deeply embedded.

The second broad approach needs to involve diplomatic engagement that forges lasting alliances with strategic players such as Iraq and the nations that make up NATO. We'd extend it even further to Japan, South Korea and any other partners in a coalition of the willing to contain and curtail Iranian influence anywhere in the world. Part of such a dip-

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News from Iraq revives those old fears

On the evening of Jan. 16, 1991, I sat between my fiancé Michael and my father on a coral-silk brocade couch in Palm Beach as we watched television in my aging uncle's claustrophobically small and poorly air-conditioned living room. We were in Florida to celebrate my 34th birthday earlier that week and to introduce Michael to my uncle, my father's older brother.

We'd returned from what was, for the three of us northerners, a very early dinner and what was, for my uncle, a very late one. My uncle wanted to check the weather—which is what folks who live in Florida do during the winter to reassure themselves that the rest of the country is in constant misery—and President H.W. George Bush appeared.

Broadcasting from the Oval Office, Bush sat behind the desk and, looking directly into the camera, explained, "attacks are underway" against Iraq. They had begun, he told us, a few hours earlier.

At dinner a few hours earlier, I'd been nervous about ordering the shrimp special because I wasn't sure how much it cost, and I knew Michael and I would be picking up the tab. We'd just moved into the house we were attempting to buy back home, renting until we could afford to make an offer. The difference between a \$12 entree and a \$24 one seemed monumental, but I was too embarrassed to ask the server for the price. I ordered a cheaper pasta dish instead.

And now Bush was explaining that "28 nations—countries from five continents, Europe and Asia, Africa, and the Arab League—have forces in the Gulf area standing shoulder to shoulder against Saddam Hussein," in order to force him to leave Kuwait. We watched as reporters from CNN showed us American and allied planes bombing Baghdad.

It was, quite simply, terrifying, although the rush of cold through my bones didn't prevent me from thinking I should have ordered the shrimp. If we were going to war—or if, as the president seemed to be saying, we were already at war—then I should have had the special. Who knows what would happen next?

What happened next, however, is what made the details of that night indelible: The electricity went out in my uncle's house.

For maybe four seconds, I was certain our country was being bombed. I thought Washington D.C. had been destroyed; I thought we were next.

Then the electricity flickered back on, and as if blinking its eyes, the TV screen went to gray stripes and then back to the night's highly irregular programming, showing lights screaming

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The Hartford Courant

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across the sky half a world away.

We all laughed uneasily. My father made a bad joke about dying in the Sunshine State. My uncle, focused as ever, failed to find the weather on any station and so announced he was going to bed. He reminded us that we were having apple pancakes at 8 a.m. sharp.

Michael and I bought the house later in 1991 and were married in the living room. My uncle passed away, and I assume he is in a warm place. Several years later, my father died (but not in the Sunshine State, to his great satisfaction).

While many things have changed, some things haven't changed enough.

Here I am during another birthday week, and we're watching the news as yet another American president talks about the possibility of waging war in the Middle East.

It's President Trump this time, speaking from Grand Foyer of the White House, surrounded by senior military in full-dress uniforms as if to prove he had support from other parts of the U.S. government—despite the fact that he acted without Congressional approval before killing Iranian General Qassem Suleimani.

Compared to Trump, Bush now seems both articulate and trustworthy. At least Bush saw citizens and not ratings when he looked into the camera and made decisions informed by history and international law.

Although 29 years have passed, I remember my realization that night in Palm Beach that others would endure a lifetime defined by such moments of chaos and terror.

And I know, just as surely as I know I should have ordered the shrimp, that some kid sitting next to her father today will, in 29 years' time, remember this week and will share my aging worries.

But I hope she has nothing more to worry about than the weather.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Who is entitled to overtime?

Jose is a waiter. He typically works 50 hours per week in exchange for minimum wage plus tips. Is he entitled to overtime?

Elsa is the restaurant manager where Jose works. She also works 50 hours per week and makes \$36,000 per year. Is she entitled to overtime?

Anna is a marketing manager. She creates advertisements, monitors industry trends, and develops marketing campaigns. She works 50 hours per week and makes \$50,000 per year. Is she entitled to overtime?

Before we answer those questions, let's first get a lay of the land.

Federal law creates two categories of employees: Those entitled to overtime pay if they work more than 40 hours in a week (non-exempt employees) and those who are not entitled to overtime pay no matter how much they work (exempt employees). Generally, non-exempt employees are paid hourly and entitled to overtime pay at 1.5 times their regular hourly rate. Exempt employees, by contrast, draw a salary that does not change whether they work 30 hours or 50 in a week. Most people are non-exempt employees and thus qualify for overtime pay.

Figuring out which category you fall into is important but often not as obvious as one might expect. That's because federal law imposes a variety of legal tests to decide whether an employee is exempt from overtime rules. These tests include, for example, the salary-level test, the salary-basis test, and the duties test.

The salary-level test is the simplest. As of this writing, if you make less than \$35,568 per year (i.e., \$684 per week) then you are entitled to overtime pay.

If you make more than that, then we need to move to the salary-basis test. This test looks at whether the employee receives a guaranteed minimum amount no matter the quality or quantity of their work. For example, whereas a non-exempt employee only gets paid for the time they actually work, exempt employees get paid for a full day even if they leave work early or take a half day off. They can only be docked if they miss the entire day.

If an employee receives a salary of at least \$35,568 per year that is not subject to them working 40 or more hours per week, then we continue to the duties test. This test examines the em-

ployee's tasks and duties to see whether the employee falls within one of the exempt employee categories, which include (among others) executive, administrative, professional, highly compensated, and outside sales.

For the executive exemption, the employee must manage the business or a part of the business. They also normally need to direct the work of at least two people and either have the authority to hire, fire, and promote, or significant input into those decisions.

For the administrative exemption, the employee must perform office or non-manual work directly affecting the company's management and business operations. In addition, the employee must exercise discretion and independent judgment concerning important matters. This last requirement eliminates many junior administrative types from the exemption.

For the professional exemption, the job must require significant education and high-level skills in a field of science or learning. These jobs include doctors, lawyers, engineers, dentists, accountants, architects, and teachers.

For the highly-compensated-employee exemption, the employee must perform office or non-manual work, earn at least \$107,432 per year, and perform one of the duties of an exempt executive, administrative, or professional employee.

For the outside-sales exemption, the job must be spent making sales or obtaining orders away from the employer's place of business. The quintessential example is a door-to-door salesman.

Why should businesses slog through the analytical hoops that we just jumped through? Because not paying overtime gets expensive. Employees can bring claims to the CNMI or federal Department of Labor. If so, the employee can get all of their unpaid overtime from the previous three years plus an equal amount as a penalty. And that can be just the tip of a pricy iceberg if the business has incorrectly withheld overtime from several employees.

Now that we understand the legal terrain, let's revisit the questions above.

Is Jose, the waiter entitled to overtime for any time he works beyond 40 hours per week? Yes. It doesn't matter that he re-

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Special to the Saipan Tribune



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ceives tips. Nor does it matter if he volunteers to work extra time after clocking out. He must receive 1.5 times his normal hourly rate for any time he works beyond 40 hours per week.

How about Elsa, the restaurant manager? Her job title is a manager. And managers don't get overtime, right? No, not necessarily. It's not the job title that matters, it's the actual job responsibilities. If Elsa is really just the head waitress, then she must receive overtime. But if she supervises at least two people, has the power to hire and fire, and spends most of her time on managerial tasks, then she's not entitled to overtime.

Finally, what about Anna, the marketing manager? It depends. Does she manage at least two full-time employees? Does she set schedules for some employees? Does she make hiring and firing decisions? Does she get docked pay when she misses time at work? Does she spend the bulk of her time managing people?

Often sorting out whether an employee is exempt from overtime is straightforward. But many cases are closer calls. If you're unsure, consider speaking with an attorney familiar with employment law.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

UNITED STATES

From Page 10

lomatic approach needs to make better use of (and perhaps even create new) international organizations and institutions to further isolate the tyrants in Tehran.

Third, the administration needs to make the case to the American people for why we should actively counter the Iranian regime. Winning a protracted international conflict requires sustained support at home. That support can only be forthcoming when a president lays out a clear and compelling strategy that inspires the people by tying the work to a larger purpose, to a purpose greater than immediate economic gain and that has a realistic chance of creating a more peaceful and prosperous future. Such a strategy can be aggressive and even confrontational, but it can't be reckless, ad hoc, or based on an immediate reaction or whim. And it's usually better when it outmaneuvers rather than openly fights with an opponent.

If it seems that the White House has not engaged in such a strategy, it may be because the president hasn't formed the kind of strategy that can isolate even a rogue regime like Iran. The fact is that the White House is lost, and its policy prescriptions for the Middle East reveal a moral confusion.

To find its way, the White House should look to the Cold War. Our leaders succeeded in that struggle by basing their strategy on a moral foundation of spreading human freedom. American presidents from Truman through Eisenhower, Kennedy, Ford, Reagan and the first George Bush deliberately put the United States on the side of people suffering under communism. They made sure the Cold War was not just a conflict between competing world powers. They understood the importance of making the conflict a contest between an oppressive state on one side and democracies standing for the rights of people trapped behind the Iron Curtain on the other.

The absurd crusade against vaping

Never before has a boon to public health been met with such hysteria and ingratitude.

Vaping is almost all upside in comparison with traditional smoking, a wanton destroyer of health and lives, and yet the nation is in the grips of a panic about e-cigarettes. In a rarity for the Trump era, the anti-vaping sentiment jumps traditional geographic and political bounds, running from the Oval Office to San Francisco, from President Donald Trump to his most fervent enemies.

Trump has announced a proposed Food and Drug Administration ban on flavored e-cigarettes, while the San Francisco Board of Supervisors banned the sale of vaping products at retail outlets. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo imposed a ban on flavored e-cigarettes on an "emergency" basis. "Vaping is dangerous, period," Cuomo pronounced, citing, like the president, teenage use in particular.

Actually, there's little evidence that vaping, as a general matter, is hazardous, especially when compared with traditional cigarettes, whose smokers inhale a witch's brew of carcinogens and carbon monoxide. Smoking accounts for 30% of all cancer deaths, and 18% of all deaths.

A credible estimate is that e-cigarettes, which involve inhaling a nicotine-infused vapor rather than smoke, are about 95% less harmful than cigarettes.

The vaping-related illnesses that have recently garnered headlines and prompted the regulatory actions appear not to implicate standard vaping, but rather the use of black-market liquids containing THC, the active ingredient in cannabis. We could make the risky products involved illegal, if they weren't already illegal.

The problem with the flavor bans—and especially a San Francisco-style outright ban—is its effect on adult e-cigarette users. About 11 million adults vape, and some percentage of them are former smokers or would be smoking in the absence of e-cigarettes. A robust study in the United Kingdom found that vaping is twice as effective as other common nicotine replacements in

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



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getting smokers to quit. The flavors, according to surveys of users, are a big draw for smokers quitting traditional cigarettes. It's manifestly absurd to ban vaping products and leave cigarettes, including flavored cigarettes, on the market.

Another source of the current panic is that teen vaping is way up, but there's nothing to suggest that this increase in vaping is encouraging real teen smoking, which has fallen below 6%. Everyone would prefer that teens not develop a vaping habit, but this presents nothing close to the health issue presented by combustible cigarettes.

By all means, let's crack down on retailers who are selling products to minors. But exaggerating the harms of vaping and prohibiting the products is a formula for giving back some of the gains against traditional smoking. The libertarian publication Reason points to one study that, insanely, shows more people beginning to consider e-cigarettes as dangerous as regular cigarettes.

The U.K. has adopted a much more sensible approach that welcomes e-cigarettes as an important harm-reduction measure. A couple of National Health Service hospitals have even allowed vape shops on their premises.

That would cause a hue and cry in the United States, where we can't agree on anything except, apparently, our irrational hostility to a product that is an alternative to a terrible scourge.

Business

AJISEN RAMEN

moves to new location

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Ajisen Ramen, a Japan-based fast food chain restaurant, has moved to a new location. Formerly located along Beach Road and beside IHOP, you can now savor their tasty ramen noodles and various soup dishes at Rosa St., Garapan across the Kristo Rai Church.

Now with a bigger dining area and parking space, Ajisen and IHOP manager

Alice Kentiko said those were the motivations why they moved. "When we were alongside IHOP we were competing with parking space. With this one, it will be convenient for our customers to come here without worrying about parking and order their favorite food."

"Our bigger dining area can house 80 customers at one time whereas before we can only sit 60. We also have two new rooms for private parties, meetings, and celebrations. If it gets busy we can still expand and use one of those rooms if it is free. So we were really thinking about our customers and

their needs before we moved here," she added.

Currently doing a soft opening before their grand opening on Friday, Jan. 17, at 11am, Kentoki also cited new potential customers that they will get from the nearby offices and residents around the area.

Aside from ramen, Kentoki said that they plan to add new dishes in the coming months.

"We are still serving our regular menu but we do have plans of adding new dishes. We plan to have more offerings of rice dishes, sushi, and other Japanese food items... even during the move, we did not falter serving our menu to our loyal customers as we served Ajisen menu at IHOP," she added.

For more information go to their FaceBook page: Ajisen Ramen Saipan.

Ajisen Ramen server Tammy Pangelinan said that they are excited and ready to serve at their new home. "It feels great to move to a place where we can serve our customers better with the bigger space both for dining and parking... we have been working hard during the transfer and get the place get

ready to reopen."

Ajisen Ramen was established in 1968 in Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan. It arrived in the Marianas almost 10 years ago as a small noodle house franchise in Guam that later expanded to a bigger branch. They opened on Saipan in 2017.

Ajisen Ramen is open from Monday to Sunday from 11am to 10pm.



Ajisen Ramen is now located along Rosa St. in Garapan across Kristo Rai Church.

BEA CABRERA

Ajisen Ramen server Tammy Pangelinan and manager Alice Kentoki are happy about their new location and bigger dining area.

Judge blocks NY ban on flavored vaping products

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A judge has blocked New York state from enforcing an executive order banning flavored vaping products.

Acting state Supreme Court Justice Catherine Cholakis ruled that the state Public Health and Health Planning Council overstepped its authority last September when it issued a ban on e-cigarettes and e-liquids flavored with anything other than tobacco or menthol.

In a ruling issued this week in Albany, Cholakis said regulating the vaping industry is a job for the state Legislature, not the executive branch, whose function is to implement policy set by lawmakers.

The emergency ban was challenged by the Vapor Technology Association, an industry group, and two of its member businesses. The judge granted their request for an injunction against enforcing the ban.

The e-cigarette industry argued that the ban would have forced vaping businesses across the state to close. But Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called vaping a public health crisis and accused "unscrupulous vaping companies" of targeting young people with flavors like cotton candy and bubble gum.

Cuomo said last month that he would introduce legislation to ban flavored nicotine e-cigarette products as well as vaping advertisements aimed at youth.

He said the legislation would also empower the state Department of Health to ban the sale of vaping carrier oils that have been blamed for respiratory ailments.

A spokesman for Cuomo called Cholakis' decision "unfortunate" but noted that the judge said in her ruling that she understood the seriousness of the vaping issue.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

New Labor Dept. rule clarifies 'joint employer' standard

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Labor Department issued a final rule Sunday that clarifies when a worker is employed by more than one company, an issue that affects franchise businesses such as McDonald's and firms that have outsourced services such as cleaning and maintenance. The rule, first proposed last spring, replaces an Obama administration policy that potentially made more businesses liable for failures by franchisees or contractors to pay overtime or minimum wages. The issue has taken on greater importance in recent years as more Americans work for temp firms, contractors and franchises. By some estimates, roughly 14 million Americans are in such "alternative work arrangements." The new rule, which will take effect March 16, provides a four-part test to determine whether a company is a "joint employer." The tests are: Whether or not it can hire or fire the employee; whether

it supervises the employee's work schedule; whether it sets their pay; and if it maintains their employment records. Not all tests need to be met to establish that a business is an employer, nor does the business model followed by a company determine whether it is an employer, a senior official from the Labor Department said. "This final rule furthers President Trump's successful, government-wide effort to address regulations that hinder the American economy and to promote economic growth," Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia said.

Severe storms leave thousands without power in West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Thousands of customers remained without electricity in West Virginia on Sunday after severe storms swept through the state. Appalachian Power said on its website nearly 6,600 homes and businesses had no service Sunday evening in southern West Virginia, down from more than 13,000 earlier Sunday. Nearly

1,900 of the customers were in Kanawha County, while there were about 1,000 customers out in Wayne County and about 600 each in Boone and Putnam counties. FirstEnergy said about 1,700 customers were without service, down from 5,100 earlier in the day. The National Weather Service said wind gusts of 56 mph were reported in Huntington and Parkersburg as the storms moved through Saturday. Record high temperatures were set across the state. The weather service said Charleston's high of 80 degrees on Saturday broke the Jan. 11 record of 71 degrees set in 2018, while Huntington's high of 78 erased the mark of 66 set in 1963. Records highs also were set in Clarksburg (76 degrees), Elkins (71), and Beckley (69), while Parkersburg tied a 70-year-old mark when it reached 78 degrees.

Aramco's 'greenshoe option' pushes IPO to record \$29.4B

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco announced

Sunday that its initial public offering raised a record \$29.4 billion, a figure higher than previously announced, after the company used a so-called "greenshoe option" to sell millions more shares to meet investor demand. The company said that the sale of an additional 450 million shares took place during the initial public offering process. The oil and gas company, which is majority owned by the state, began publicly trading on the local Saudi Tadawul exchange on Dec. 11. It hit upwards of \$10 a share on the second day of trading. This gave Aramco a market capitalization of \$2 trillion, making it comfortably the world's most valuable company. Aramco's additional sales mean the company has publicly floated 1.7% of its shares. It's IPO, even before the added sales, was the world's largest ever. The shares sold in the over-allotment option "had been allocated to investors during the bookbuilding process and therefore, no additional shares are being offered into the market today," Aramco said.

Nation

Recovery begins

after storms that kill 11 in Midwest, South

Icy roads, deadly tornadoes, punishing waves—severe weekend weather has been blamed for 11 deaths and major damage in parts of the Midwest, South and Northeast.

Tens of thousands remained without electrical power Sunday as a result of the storms a day earlier. Officials in farflung locations were assessing the damages while utility crews worked to restore power.

The storms toppled trees, ripped off roofs and, in some areas, reduced buildings to rubble.

The National Weather Service said it was a tornado packing winds of at least 134

mph (215 kph) that hit Alabama's Pickens County on Saturday, killing three people.

"I could hear everything just coming apart," Larry Jones, standing amid the rubble in Pickens County, said in a video posted by The Tuscaloosa News.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey praised the state's first responders in a statement Sunday expressing grief over the deaths.

"This morning, I have reached out to both the county leadership as well as the legislative delegation to offer my deepest condolences in this terrible loss of life," Ivey's statement said.

In northwestern Louisiana, three fatalities were blamed on high winds. A man in his

bed in Oil City, Louisiana, was crushed to death by a tree that fell on his home early Saturday. A couple in nearby Bossier Parish were killed when the storms demolished their mobile home. The National Weather Service said a tornado with 135 mph (215 kph) winds hit the area.

In Lubbock, Texas, two first responders were killed when they were hit by a vehicle at the scene of a traffic accident on icy roads; in Iowa, where a semitrailer on Interstate 80 overturned, a passenger was killed in similar road conditions.

Near Kiowa, Oklahoma, a man drowned after he was swept away by floodwaters, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said.

In this image taken from video, severe storms sweeping across parts of the U.S. South were blamed for deaths and destruction, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, including the destruction to this downtown Greenville, Miss., building as shown in this video frame grab.

In Wisconsin, high winds, towering waves and flooding caused millions of dollars in damage to Port Milwaukee on Lake Michigan. Port Director Adam Schlicht called it "an unprecedented event at Port Milwaukee."

Icy weather also complicated travel in some areas. Winter weather prompted the cancellation of more than 1,200 flights Saturday at Chicago's two main airports.

Schlicht said the port's in-

ternational docks, which are closed for the season, sustained "significant damage."

High winds and icy weather were factors in power outages affecting tens of thousands of people in the South and the Northeast. The PowerOutage.US website, which tracks outages, reported more than 11,000 outages in New York as of Sunday evening. Outage numbers were falling but there remained more than 10,000 without

power in West Virginia; roughly 17,000 in the Carolinas; 14,000 in Alabama; 20,000 in Mississippi, and 12,000 in Arkansas.

Entergy Corporation, said its subsidiaries serving Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi were working to restore power to roughly 30,000 Sunday, most in Mississippi and Arkansas. That was down from a peak of 134,000 outages in the entire Entergy system.

Not on form, but brawl over citizenship question continues

The U.S. Supreme Court decided a citizenship question won't be on this spring's census form, but that doesn't mean the fight over it has ended in courtrooms across the country.

In Maryland, civil rights groups are trying to block an order from President Donald Trump to gather citizenship data through administrative records. In New York, other civil rights groups are seeking sanctions against Trump administration attorneys for not turning over documents related to the citizenship question's origins. Democratic lawmakers in the District of Columbia are fighting for similar documents, and Alabama officials are suing the Census Bureau to keep immigrants living in the country illegally from being counted during the process that determines the number of congressional seats each state gets.

All of the lawsuits touch on whether the number of citizens, instead of the total

population, will be used for redistricting or apportionment—the process of divvying up congressional seats among the states after the 2020 census. Opponents say doing so would dilute the influence of minorities and Democrats, which they argue was the true intent of the Trump administration's desire to add a citizenship question in the first place.

The U.S. Constitution specifies that congressional districts should be based on how many people—not citizens—live there. But the legal requirements are murkier for state legislative districts.

"The country is changing demographically, and people in power believe that the only way to stay in power is to disadvantage minority voters," said Andrea Senteno, an attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, one of the civil rights groups that sued Trump in the Maryland case. "What we're seeing now is a reflection of that. It's really about political

power in the long term."

Supporters of the question say the U.S. should know how many citizens there are.

"It's important for us as a country to know how many people are citizens," U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, a Republican from Georgia, said last week during a congressional hearing.

Last June, the U.S. Supreme Court blocked the Trump administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census. The administration had said the question was being added to aid in enforcement of a law that protects minority voters' access to the ballot box. But the high court said the administration's justification for the question "seems to have been contrived."

Opponents argued it would intimidate immigrants, Hispanics and others from participating in the once-a-decade head count that determines how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is allocated and how many congressional seats each state gets.

12 shot, five dead, in single day of shootings in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (AP)—Authorities say 12 people were shot, five of them fatally, in eight separate weekend shootings in Baltimore.

The first of Saturday's shootings was reported at about 2:30 a.m. and involved three female victims, all found with apparent gunshot wounds in a car in a northeastern section of the city. One victim, a 28-year-old woman, died shortly after arriving at a hospital.

A few hours later, police responding to a shooting in southeast Baltimore found a 46-year-old man with a gunshot wound to the leg. Then, a second shooting victim, a 40-year-old man, walked into a hospital seeking treatment for a gunshot wound to his leg.

Shortly after 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, police found a man fatally shot in southeast Baltimore. That was followed less than half an hour later by a shooting in central Baltimore that left a 37-year-old man wounded.

A 38-year-old man was found with a gunshot wound around 7 p.m. Saturday in northeast Baltimore.

A shooting in southwest Baltimore about an hour later left one man wounded and another dead. More gunfire a few minutes later in northeast Baltimore left a 37-year-old man fatally wounded.

Saturday's violence ended shortly before 11 p.m., when officers found a 24-year-old man fatally wounded in northwest Baltimore.

The city recorded 348 homicides last year, its fifth consecutive year with more

than 300 murders and the most violent year ever on a per-capita basis.

City council president Brandon Scott, a Democrat running for mayor, issued a statement Sunday condemning the violence.

"A day that should have been met with pride and community was once again flooded with violence and loss," Scott wrote, an apparent reference to an NFL divisional playoff game hosted by the Baltimore Ravens on Saturday night.

"This violence is heart-breaking and must stop now," added Scott, who said he plans to question Baltimore's police commissioner and other agency heads about what they were doing in the affected communities before and after the shootings.

Asia

Australia turns from defense to offense in wildfire battle

BODALLA, Australia (AP)—Crews battling Australia's wildfires said Sunday that they have been able to turn from defense to offense for the first time in weeks thanks to a break in the weather.

Dale McLean, who is helping manage the response to a fire near the town of Bodalla in New South Wales state, was part of team that was bulldozing down small trees and burning scrub ahead of the fire's projected path to try to stop it from reaching a major highway by starving it of fuel.

"This fire took a major run about seven or eight days ago, and with the weather changing now, the weather settling down, the fire has settled down," he said. "The fire behavior has changed. So we're able to get in front of the fire now, get on the offensive."

Other workers echoed McLean's comments, saying cooler temperatures and mild winds have finally offered them a chance to make progress. The weather is expected to remain benign for the next week, although any

deterioration in conditions after that could see the wildfires flare up again.

While battling the blazes, volunteer firefighting veteran Mick Stain found some moth larvae, or "witchetty grubs," and turned them into what's known in Australia as bush tucker by roasting them directly on the fire's burning coals.

"Bit creamy and nutty, but they're all right," Stain said. "They're not spew-worthy, so they're pretty good."

Meanwhile, U.S. tennis star Serena Williams donated her

\$43,000 winner's check from New Zealand's ASB Classic to the fundraising appeal for victims of the wildfires, joining many other tennis stars to pledge money, including Ash Barty, Nick Kyrgios, Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova.

Also on Sunday, news came that another firefighter had been killed. Bill Slade—one of the few professionals among mainly volunteer brigades battling blazes across southeast Australia—died after being hit by a falling tree on Saturday

near Omeo in eastern Victoria state, Forest Fire Management Victoria Executive Director Chris Hardman said.

The 60-year-old married father of two was commended in November for 40 years of service with the forestry agency.

"Although we do have enormous experience in identifying hazardous trees, sometimes these tree failures can't be predicted," Hardman said. "Working on the fire ground in a forest environment is a dynamic, high-risk environment and it carries with it significant risk."

The tragedy brings the death toll to at least 27 in a crisis that has destroyed more than 2,000 homes and scorched an area larger than the U.S. state of Indiana since September. Four of the casualties have been firefighters.

The crisis has brought accusations that Prime Minister

Scott Morrison's conservative government needs to take more action to counter climate change, which experts say has worsened the blazes. Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in Sydney and Melbourne, calling for Morrison to be fired and for Australia to take tougher action on global warming.

The prime minister said Sunday that his government was building resilience to the fire danger posed by climate change.

He said the government was developing a national disaster risk reduction framework within the Department of Home Affairs that will deal with wildfires, cyclones, floods and drought.

"This is a longer-term risk framework model which deals with one of the big issues in response to the climate changing," Morrison said.



A bulldozer operated by the Forestry Corporation works at building a containment line at a wildfire near Bodalla, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.

AP Analysis: Taiwan vote signals growing divide with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The landslide reelection of Taiwan's leader underscores the population's embrace of an identity distinct from China—a shift that the communist leaders of China refuse to accept.

It's a contradiction that will keep the island of 23 million people at odds with its much larger neighbor for the foreseeable future and put increasing strains on the one-China principle, which holds that Taiwan and China are part of one country.

President Tsai Ing-wen swept to a second four-year term Saturday with 57% of the vote. Her opponent, Han Kuo-yu, tallied 39%. The results soundly rejected the China-friendly views of his Nationalist Party, which has struggled to adapt to the emergence and evolution of a Taiwanese identity.

The question for the next four years is whether the governments on both sides of the 160-kilometer- (100-mile-) wide Taiwan Strait will stay the course or escalate their battle of wills.

China may step up its campaign to try to isolate Taiwan both diplomatically and economically, though it may also be rethinking that approach after efforts to do so during Tsai's first term only seemed to build support for her at home.

Her big win could embolden some in her Democratic Progressive Party to look for ways to nudge Taiwan toward formal independence from China, the party's official goal. But even symbolic steps would anger China and could invite retaliation, and Tsai herself has shown no signs of going down that path.

Modern Taiwan is an out-

growth of a civil war between the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Zedong's Communists for control of China after World War II. The communists triumphed in 1949, and Chiang retreated to Taiwan, where he set up a rival government that he ran with an iron fist while harboring hopes of taking back the entire country from the communists.

That is no longer a realistic goal, and with each passing decade, Chiang's dream has been replaced by a growing sense that Taiwan is not a part of China, particularly among the younger generations. They see their home as a separate entity with its own democratic ideals and don't want to be subsumed by China and its ruling Communist Party.

The long-running and at times violent pro-democracy

protests in Hong Kong that started last June reinforced that sentiment.

Early in 2019, Chinese leader Xi Jinping proposed talks with Taiwan on joining China under a "one-country, two-systems" framework similar to the one that governs Hong Kong, the former British colony returned to China in 1997.

Most Taiwanese oppose the idea, and Tsai capitalized politically on the Hong Kong protests, saying they illustrate why one-country, two-systems doesn't work.

Taiwan largely functions as an independent nation, with its own laws, military and foreign minister, though technically it and mainland China belong to one country with rival governments, the People's Republic of China in Beijing and the Republic of China in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital.

Decorated Indian officer arrested for Kashmir rebel ties

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Police in Indian-controlled Kashmir have arrested a long-serving counterinsurgency officer for allegedly having ties with rebels fighting against Indian rule in the disputed region, officials said Sunday.

Police intercepted a fast-moving car in southern Kashmir on Saturday night and arrested police deputy superintendent Davinder Singh along with two militants and their civilian aide, Inspector General Vijay Kumar told reporters in Srinagar, the region's main city.

The case has rattled the Indian security apparatus that administers the tense region, where rebels have waged an armed campaign for decades demanding independence or a merger with neighboring Pakistan, which administers a part of Kashmir.

Kumar called the arrests a "big operation" and said one of the arrested militants is a top commander of Kashmir's largest rebel group, Hizbul Mujahideen, who had deserted police ranks in 2017 with four weapons. He said the militant commander, Naveed Baba, was "second in command" in Hizbul Mujahideen.

Some weapons and ammunition were recovered from the arrested men, Kumar said.

"The issue is very sensitive, and all intelligence agencies and police are

jointly interrogating the officer," he said. "Given the circumstances, this is a heinous crime."

Singh has long served in the police's Special Operations Group, a dreaded counterinsurgency unit that has been widely accused by Kashmiris and human rights groups of some of the worst violations reported during the last three decades of conflict, from summary executions, torture and rape to holding suspects as well as civilians for ransom.

Singh was currently working at the anti-hijacking unit at Srinagar's airport, one of the most fortified and heavily guarded airports in India. Last week, he was among the officers who received New Delhi-based foreign envoys of 15 countries who came to visit the region for the first time after India stripped Kashmir's semi-autonomous status and imposed a communications and security lockdown in August.

He was once injured in an anti-militant operation and was later given the Indian president's gallantry award.

This is not the first time Indian law enforcement officers have been implicated in rebel activities in Kashmir, one of the most militarized zones in the world.

In 2012, Indian police arrested two intelligence officials and two low-ranking police officers for ties with militants in the region.

World

Canada PM Trudeau: Iran plane families will get answers

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Sunday it's been gut-wrenching to listen to stories from relatives of 57 Canadians who perished in the downing of a Ukrainian jetliner in Iran last week as he attended one of several memorials across the country.

Speaking at a memorial with a capacity crowd of 2,300 in Edmonton, Alberta, Trudeau said he has learned many of the victims came to Canada in search of new opportunities for their families, but those families are now consumed by grief and outrage.

The plane was shot down by an Iranian missile moments after taking off from Tehran on Wednesday. All 176 on board were killed, including 138 who were headed for Canada.

Iran has admitted the plane was mistaken for a hostile target amid soaring tensions with the United States.

Trudeau called it a Canadian tragedy.

"This tragedy should never



have occurred," he said. "We will not rest until there are answers. We will not rest until there is justice and accountability."

Other memorials were held

Sunday across the country.

At the Vancouver Art Gallery, National Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan also called the crash a national tragedy. At the University of Toronto, many

cried throughout the ceremony as speakers listed victims, including a one-year-old. People broke out in raucous applause several times when various speakers and politicians said Iran would be held accountable.

Fati Mortazavi, whose best friend died in the crash, said having a community come together helped her cope with the tragedy.

"It's so comforting for us," said Mortazavi. "As long as

we know that someone cares for these people, that's so important for us."

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland attended the vigil in Toronto and said the loss goes well beyond the university.

"This is Toronto's loss, this is Ontario's loss and this is Canada's loss," an emotional Freeland told the vigil. "Nothing will ever replace these brilliant lives that have been cut short. We will always ... bear

these scars."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, arrives with Alberta Premier Jason Kenney during a memorial for the victims of the Ukrainian plane disaster in Iran this past week in Edmonton, Alberta, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020.

these scars."

Three members of Canada's standing rapid deployment team arrived Saturday in Iran to establish a base of operations for the Canadian government in the wake of the crash.

Foreign Affairs Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne said Sunday that Iran has approved visas for six more members of the team, who are currently in Ankara, Turkey, as well as for two experts from the Transportation Safety Board.

The eight are to travel to Iran on Monday, Champagne said in a series of tweets.

A spokesman for Champagne said the officials "will be there to provide consular assistance to the families of the victims, including supporting repatriation of remains, to help identify victims and to assist in the investigation."

Canada's Transportation Board said Sunday it also plans to deploy a second team of investigators who specialize in aircraft recorder download and analysis.

WORLD BRIEFS

Canadian officials accidentally push nuke alert to millions

TORONTO (AP)—People throughout the Canadian province of Ontario awoke Sunday to a cellphone alert warning them of an "incident" at a nuclear plant just east of Toronto—only to later be told the message was a mistake. The message, which was transmitted throughout the nation's most populous province, was accompanied by a shrill emergency broadcast noise. It said an unspecified event had occurred at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station. There was no abnormal release of radioactivity, it added, and people did not need to take protective action. More than an hour later, utility officials sent another message saying the alert "was sent in error" and that there was "no danger to the public or environment." "No further action is required," said the message, which was also sent to television screens. The alert went out during a routine training exercise being conducted by the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre, Ontario Solicitor General Sylvia Jones said in a statement that apologized for the mistake. She said the government had started a full investigation and would "take the appropriate steps to ensure this doesn't happen again."

Pope Benedict XVI breaks silence to reaffirm priest celibacy

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Retired Pope Benedict XVI has broken his silence to reaffirm the value of priestly celibacy, co-authoring a bombshell book at the precise moment that Pope Francis is weighing whether to allow married men to be ordained to address the Catholic priest shortage. Benedict wrote the book, "From the Depths of Our Hearts: Priesthood, Celibacy and the Crisis of the Catholic Church," along with his fellow conservative, Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, who heads the Vatican's liturgy office and has been a quiet critic of Francis. The French daily Le Figaro published excerpts of the book

late Sunday; The Associated Press obtained galleys of the English edition, which is being published by Ignatius Press. Benedict's intervention is extraordinary, given he had promised to remain "hidden from the world" when he retired in 2013 and pledged his obedience to the new pope. He has largely held to that pledge, though he penned an odd essay last year on the sexual abuse scandal that blamed the crisis on the sexual revolution of the 1960s. His reaffirmation of priestly celibacy, however, gets to the heart of a fraught policy issue that Francis is expected to weigh in on, and could well be considered a public attempt by the former pope to sway the thinking of the current one. The implications for such an intervention are grave, and are likely to fuel renewed anxiety about the unprecedented situation of two popes, one retired and one reigning, living side by side in the Vatican gardens.

World War II bomb defused in Germany after mass evacuation

BERLIN (AP)—Two World War II bombs were successfully defused in the western German city of Dortmund on Sunday, hours after thousands of people were evacuated from the surrounding area, officials said. The bombs were 250-kilogram (330-pound) American and British bombs. Authorities initially thought they had detected four bombs, but later clarified that only two were found. Authorities had evacuated two hospitals and opened schools for residents who had to leave their homes. City officials had asked about 14,000 people to leave the areas where the bombs were buried. The city's train station had also been shut down and trains were rerouted. Before experts defused the two bombs, helicopters patrolled overhead to ensure everyone had evacuated. Almost 75 years after the end of the war, unexploded bombs are frequently found in Germany. Disposing of them sometimes entails large-scale evacuations as a precaution.

Defying police, Iranians protest over plane shootdown

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iranian demonstrators defied a heavy police presence Sunday night to protest their country's days of denials that it shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane carrying 176 people, the latest unrest to roil the capital amid soaring tensions with the United States.

Videos posted online showed protesters shouting anti-government slogans and moving through subway stations and sidewalks, many around Azadi, or Freedom, Square after an earlier call for people to demonstrate there. Other videos suggested similar protests were taking place in other Iranian cities.

Protesters often wore hoods and covered their faces, probably to avoid being recognized by surveillance cameras. Some online videos purported to show police firing tear gas sporadically, though there was no immediate wholesale crackdown on demonstrators.

Meanwhile, in an emotional speech before parliament, the head of the Revolutionary Guard apologized for the shootdown and insisted it was

a tragic mistake.

"I swear to almighty God that I wished I was on that plane and had crashed with them and burned but had not witnessed this tragic incident," said Gen. Hossein Salami. "I have never been this embarrassed in my entire life. Never."

Iran's state-run media, as well as semiofficial news agencies and publications, did not immediately report on the demonstrations. However, international rights groups already have called on Iran to allow people to protest peacefully as allowed by the country's constitution.

"After successive national traumas in a short time period, people should be allowed to safely grieve and demand accountability," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Iranians shouldn't have to risk their lives to exercise their constitutional right to peaceful assembly."

Riot police in black uniforms and helmets earlier massed in Vali-e Asr Square, at Tehran University and other landmarks. Revolutionary Guard members patrolled the

city on motorbikes, and plainclothes security men were also out in force. People looked down as they walked briskly past police, hoping not to draw attention to themselves.

The plane crash early Wednesday killed everyone on board, mostly Iranians and Iranian-Canadians. After initially pointing to a technical failure and insisting the armed forces were not to blame, authorities on Saturday admitted accidentally shooting it down in the face of mounting evidence and accusations by Western leaders.

Iran downed the flight as it braced for possible American retaliation after firing ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces. The missile attack, which caused no casualties, was a response to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general, in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. But no retaliation came.

Iranians have expressed anger over the downing of the plane and the misleading explanations from senior officials in the wake of the tragedy. They are also mourning the dead, which included many young people who were studying abroad.

Focus

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—The reins of political power in the U.S. for the next decade could be determined in this year's elections—not necessarily by who wins the presidency, but by thousands of lower-profile contests for state legislative seats across the country.

In many states, the winners of those legislative races will have a role in drawing new districts for Congress or state legislatures based on the 2020 census. If a political party can win control of those state legislative chambers now, it can draw voting districts to boost its chances in future elections.

"The 2020 election is the premier election when it comes to redistricting, because it is the election that will set the players in place who will do redistricting come 2021," said Wendy Underhill, director of elections and redistricting for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Voters will be electing more than 5,000 state lawmakers in 35 states who will play a significant role in crafting or passing new maps for Congress or state House and Senate districts. Voters also will be electing governors in eight states who could enact or veto those maps.

The Constitution requires a census once every 10 years. That population count then is used to redraw districts for the U.S. House of Representatives and state legislative chambers. States that grow rapidly can gain congressional seats while those that fail to keep pace can lose seats. Migration among cities, suburbs and rural areas also can lead to changes in district lines to try to equalize the number of residents in each voting jurisdiction.

Seven states have only one congressional district because of their small populations. Of the remaining 43 states, eight use redistricting commissions for Congress that leave little or no role for the state legislature. Eleven of the 50 states rely on independent commissions for redistricting their state House and Senate seats. The rest involve lawmakers in the process, and most also give governors a say.

Republicans generally outmaneuvered Democrats during the last round of redistricting by converting big wins in the 2010 state elections into favorable maps for the future. Democrats successfully challenged some of those maps in court, forcing them to be redrawn, but others have remained in place for the full decade.

This time, Democrats are pouring more money into the redistricting fight. The Demo-



Redistricting power at stake in 2020 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

AP
In this Dec. 4, 2019, file photo, light shines on the U.S. Capitol dome in Washington. The votes are there. The rules and choreography are set, more or less. And now — hear ye, hear ye — the Senate impeachment trial of President Donald Trump is nearly set to begin. Here's what to expect when the Senate puts the impeachment articles against Trump on trial, starting as early as this coming week.

cratic Legislative Campaign Committee has boosted its fundraising target from about \$10 million during the 2009-2010 election cycle to \$50 million in the 2019-2020 elections. Various Democratic-aligned groups are kicking in tens of millions more, including the National Democratic Redistricting Committee led by former Obama administration Attorney General Eric Holder.

"We've got the next 10 years of politics at stake in these elections," said Patrick Rodenbush, communications director for the National Democratic Redistricting Committee.

The Republican State Leadership Committee, which calls its redistricting campaign "Right Lines 2020," hasn't disclosed a fundraising goal for the year. But it had a target of as much as \$50 million for state legislative and down-ballot statewide races during the 2017-18 election cycle.

"This is the long-term investment," Republican State Leadership Committee President Austin Chambers said. "This is about making sure that we have a congressional majority and a conservative majority across the country at the state and local level for the next decade."

THE BIG FOUR

Four of the biggest redistricting prizes in the 2020 legislative elections are Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Georgia. Those states combined account for 90 U.S. House seats, one-fifth of the nationwide total, and Republicans currently hold more than 60% of them. Texas, Florida and North Carolina all are projected to gain congressional

seats because of their population growth, which would give the party in power an opportunity to shape new districts to their liking.

All four states have complete Republican control in their state legislatures, giving them an edge in redistricting, although Florida's constitution says districts can't be drawn to favor a political party. Texas, Florida and Georgia also have Republican governors who were elected to four-year terms in 2018.

Texas has 36 U.S. House seats, second only to California, and the potential to gain as many as three more because of its rapid growth.

"The reality is Texas is the crown jewel of redistricting," said Vicky Hausman, co-founder of Forward Majority, a Democratic organization that is targeting key Republican-led legislatures in the 2020 elections.

If Democrats could flip control of at least one legislative chamber in GOP-led states, they could gain leverage for redistricting compromises that could increase their odds of winning future elections and building their majority in Congress.

"A lot of where we're trying to win would be disruption, like Texas, that has to force Democrats and Republicans to work together for maps," said Matt Harringer, press secretary for the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee.

In North Carolina, all congressional and some state legislative candidates will be running under newly redrawn districts this year after state courts stopped the use of prior maps drawn by the Republican-led Legislature. Democrats had argued that the

old districts were an example of extreme partisan gerrymandering. Republicans hold 10 of North Carolina's 13 seats in the U.S. House, even though statewide elections between Republicans and Democrats are usually close.

Democrats would need to gain five state Senate seats and six state House seats to flip control of the chambers. North Carolina's governor, a Democrat who is up for re-election in 2020, is irrelevant in redistricting because the office has no power to sign or veto the plans passed by the Legislature.

North Carolina "is going to be one of the top spends for our committee in 2020, and we're going to do everything in our power to maintain the state House and the state Senate," said Chambers, of the Republican state committee.

MARGINS MATTER

Ohio has long been a top redistricting target for the political parties. After the 2010 census, Republicans controlled the House, Senate, governor's office and other key executive offices that gave them firm control over redistricting. Republicans still control Ohio government.

But a pair of constitutional amendments approved by voters since the last census have changed the redistricting process to inject greater bipartisanship. After the 2020 census, a congressional redistricting plan must receive a 60% vote in both the House and Senate—including support from at least half the minority party members in each chamber—to last for the full decade. A similar bipartisan threshold is required from the commission of elected offi-

cials that handles state legislative redistricting.

Winning control of the Ohio House or Senate would be difficult for Democrats, yet each seat they can gain will increase the number of Democratic votes needed for the Republican majorities to enact new districts.

Slim margins also could make a big difference in the historically Republican state of Kansas.

Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, will be able to veto redistricting plans passed by the Republican-led Legislature. The question is whether Republicans will have the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto and be able to stick together if they do. In the Senate, Republicans currently hold 29 of the 40 seats—two more than the override threshold. In the House, Republicans hold 84 of the 125 seats—exactly what's needed for an override.

SPLIT POWER

In some states with politically divided governments, Democrats will be making a play in the 2020 elections to win full control of redistricting while Republicans will be seeking to hold on to a seat at the table.

Minnesota currently is the only state where Democrats control one legislative chamber and Republicans the other. But the 75-59 Democratic majority in the House is more solid than the 35-32 Republican majority in the Senate. If Democrats gain two Senate seats, they would hold the trifecta of redistricting power, because they already control the governor's office.

In New Hampshire, the redistricting battle centers around the 2020 gubernatorial

election. Democrats currently control the state House and Senate while the governor's office is held by Republican Chris Sununu, who is running for re-election. In August, Sununu vetoed a bipartisan measure that would have created an independent commission to redraw the state's legislative districts. Sununu said there was no need for it because the current process—which allows the governor to veto redistricting plans passed by the legislature—is fair.

Pennsylvania and Wisconsin also are redistricting targets for both Democrats and Republicans. Both states have Democratic governors who aren't up for re-election in 2020 and Republican legislative majorities that remain short of the threshold needed to override vetoes. Unless one party wins big in the 2020 legislative elections, compromise may be necessary during the next round of congressional redistricting.

REDISTRICTING BYSTANDERS

The 2020 elections won't matter at all in some states—at least not when it comes to redistricting.

That's the case in the nation's most populous state of California, which will use a 14-member citizens commission to draw its congressional and state legislative districts after the 2020 census. Not only are lawmakers excluded from the commission, but so are other federal and state employees, political party officials, campaign staff members, lobbyists and big political donors. The only role for state legislative leaders is in whittling down the list of applicants before the members—five Republicans, five Democrats and four independents—are randomly selected.

Michigan had been expected to be a big redistricting battleground in the 2020 legislative elections. But a ballot measure approved in 2018 by voters created an independent commission to handle the task that had previously been the domain of the legislature and governor. Michigan's process is now similar to California's.

Other states with independent redistricting commissions include Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey and Washington.

Missouri and Pennsylvania use independent commissions only for state legislative districts, not congressional ones, so the 2020 elections still can have an impact on redistricting in those states. Though Republicans aren't likely to lose their grip on Missouri's legislature, Democrats are mounting a challenging to the incumbent GOP governor this year.

Overdrive

By SCOTT STURGIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

2020 Kia Soul GT-Line: The Soul of a hot rodder?

Price: \$29,055 as tested, including \$345 for fancy white paint, \$130 for carpeted floor mats, and \$95 for a cargo tray.

Conventional wisdom: Consumer Reports likes the “controls, access, CVT feels like conventional transmission, braking,” but not the “ride, engine noise.”

Marketer’s pitch: “Next-level versatility.”

Reality: Better yet—the Soul of a Mini.

What’s new: I’ve often waxed poetic on Kia’s ability to address its cars’ shortcomings with each model upgrade. For most consumer goods, “new and improved” equals “same crap, shiny new packaging,” but Kia and Hyundai have mostly avoided that.

Now, with the turbocharged engine and 7-speed transmission of the GT-Line, though, the Soul takes improvements to new heights.

Because my wife has a 2015 Soul, I’m able to offer a real insider view of this boxy Kia. I only wish it were possible to retest the previous version alongside every new car.

Up to speed: It’s a speedy Soul. Horsepower is now 201—a lot from a tiny, 1.6-liter turbocharged engine—and the little box moves to 60 mph in just 6.5 seconds, according to Motor Trend. (The standard 2.0-liter engine creates 147 horses.)

Beyond that, though, it offers plenty of passing ability and quick acceleration from corners.

One downside, though—the front-wheel-drive has about reached its limits. Sometimes the front wheels feel as if they will rip away from the rest of the car.

Shifty: The 7-speed shiftable automatic transmission serves the car well. Operating gears yourself adds the most oomph, but a lazy passing maneuver on the interstate while

AUTO REVIEW:

Kia puts even more joy in the Soul for 2020



The 2020 Soul GT-Line is speedy, taking improvements over previous models to new heights.

(KIA/TNS)

holding seventh gear doesn’t take forever either.

The lever or paddles provide two ways of shifting, and both work well.

On the road: And the best part—the notoriously bouncy-house ride has departed the Soul. The car now feels sedate on the bumps compared with its early years and even compared with the 2018 model I last tested. This GT-Line was smooth like a regular car. Nice.

A la mode: While all the fun and frolic happen in Sport mode, it is best used only above 30 mph or so. Below that, Sport feels far too jerky, especially in

stop-and-go traffic.

In that case, Normal mode and automatic transmission work fine together. Normal mode at higher speeds, though, feels a lot like my wife’s 2015 model—nice enough, but definitely not a super fun car. (Someone’s sleeping on the couch tonight.)

Driver’s Seat: Kia’s clear gauge pod and comfortable seat remain, though everything looks more like a Stinger and feels just a little more comfortable.

Friends and stuff: Rear-seat passengers will continue to enjoy spacious accommodations, with a nice, low hump and ac-

commodating rear seat. Sturgis Kid 4.0 has made this the basis for comparison as he stretches out his long, long legs.

Though the Soul is slightly more rounded as well, its cargo space is not affected—still at a cavernous 62.1 cubic feet (24.4 with the rear seat up) and besting many medium-size SUVs.

Play some tunes: Kia has made some changes to its vaunted infotainment system. It’s evolving the way most are—to a shorter, wider display—but fortunately, Kia still sees the benefit of keeping buttons outside the touchpad for changing source or switching to a map view. Dials con-

trol volume and tuning. The system is as easy as ever.

Sound is about a B+/A-, somewhat clear but not as adjustable as it could be.

Keeping warm and cool: The heater controls have not really changed over the years—dials for the temperature with buttons for source and fan speed. Everything works well, and our Soul experience has been run it on Auto and the temperature remains fairly consistent.

Night shift: Those squinty headlights up front work as expected—providing less shine up high where it would be so useful. Not the worst, but it

used to be better. The interior lights are pretty and don’t get in the way, fortunately.

Fuel economy: This also keeps improving as well. I averaged about 28 mpg in a pretty hard-core round of driving. Feed the GT-Line turbo whatever.

Where it’s built: Gwangju, South Korea.

How it’s built: Consumer Reports predicts the Soul’s reliability to be 5 out of 5.

In the end: With the improved reliability to round out all the new joys of the Soul, it’s just a shame that Kia isn’t offering this in an all-wheel-drive version.

Under the Hood: Troubleshooting a faulty power window

Q: The driver’s window in my 2015 Accord has begun to clunk and rock oddly as it’s raised and lowered. It’s most noticeably noticeable when it’s first opened. I usually need to help it finish closing by pressing upward on the glass with my palm. What do you think may be causing this? Is it something I might fix myself?

A: Your Accord utilizes a cable type window regulator, the mechanical device that raises and lowers the door glass. The fault may lie within the regulator, or its attachment bolts may be loose.

Accessing/renewing the

regulator requires removal of the door trim panel and door glass. Panel removal is tricky without detailed service information as there are hidden screws, easy to break plastic clips, and separating the inner door handle and switch connections from the back of the panel as it’s loose requires finesse. Behind the trim panel is a plastic sheet/cover (vapor barrier) that requires some surgical skills to remove if it’s to be properly reinstalled. Working with the regulator isn’t particularly difficult thanks to a generously large access opening in the door frame.

In a worst case scenario, where the regulator requires replacement, parts cost ranges from perhaps \$75 for an Amazon cheapo unit to \$370 (list price) for a genuine Honda part. The power window motor is integrated with the regulator. Since one wouldn’t want to do this job twice, I’d shop for a name brand aftermarket (Dorman, A1-Cardone, other) unit if going that way. Labor, assuming one is skilled in this task, is about an hour and a half.

Unless you’ve performed similar work before and have information access, this job is best left to a pro. There’s also a re-

learn/reset procedure to perform allowing the window control unit to reaffirm glass position. This is best performed using a professional grade scan tool, as the non-scan method is incredibly tedious. I’d move on getting this repaired soon, as glass or regulator damage could occur should a loose/missing bolt allow parts to rack and twist.

Q: I just purchased a new pickup, perhaps my last one in this lifetime, so I want it to last. The salesman told me that, other than the engine oil, the other fluids are either lifetime or maybe done at 100K. Is this reasonable?

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



I don’t mind stepping up the maintenance as needed.

A: I’d check the published maintenance schedule to be sure of the recommended intervals, and consider whether you might fall into the severe service category. Were it my truck, I’d renew brake fluid, coolant and transmission fluid every four years/50K miles,

even if a longer interval or none were listed. Also consider changing 4x4 transfer case fluid and differential fluid at this time or within another couple of years/25K miles.

Fluid maintenance is the cheapest insurance one can buy! I’d also swap out cooling system hoses and serpentine belt at four years/50K miles.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE

† *Remedio Celis Cabrera Diaz "Ochi"*

BORN OCTOBER 10, 1950 – CALLED TO HER ETERNAL LIFE JANUARY 9, 2020

In her Eternal life, she now joins:

Daughter: †Serafina Diaz
Father: †Leonardo Camacho Cabrera
Mother: †Ignacia Celis Cabrera
Father In-Law: †Vicente Lizama Diaz
Mother In-Law: †Serafina Pangelinan Diaz
Sibling: †Jose Celis Cabrera
 †Juan Celis Cabrera
Reared Brother: †Jesus Antonio Teregeyo "Namba"
Brother In-Laws: †Glenn D. Butteris
 †Calistro S. Cepeda
 †Pedro W. Torres
 †Peter Anthony P. Diaz
 †Paul Felix P. Diaz

Her memory lives in the hearts of:

Husband: Vicente P. Diaz
Children: Vicente "Cotch" P. Diaz Jr.
 Adrian Diaz
 Thomas/Chelsey Diaz (SeraFenah)
 Kekoa Diaz (Cash James)
 Timothy Anderson (Mateo Juan, Rico Miguel)

Sisters, Brothers, In-laws and Family

Eugenia C. Cepeda (†Delia Cepeda and family, Leonora/Filomon Camacho and family, †Elsie Fejeran and family, †Leonard John Cepeda, Jordonna/Bruce Sonthixay and family, Raymond Cepeda/Zania Fleming and family)
 Margarita C. Torres (Margaret Bertha Torres/Frederick Pangelinan and family, Jackie/ Joe Camacho and family, Peter/Trina Torres and family, Jesse/Gina Torres and family, Risha/Joseph Lifofoi and family)
 Victorina C. Butteris (Darrin Butteris/Doris Guerrero and family)
 Diana C. and Francisco Torres (Pamela Torres and family, Jeffrey/Nu'uipeau Torres and family, Kolani Torres and family, Francisco Torres Jr./Jermaine Cabrera and family)
 †Juan C. Cabrera (Rodney Cabrera and family, Rowena Cabrera and family, Lora Jean Cabrera and family, Juan/Jadine Cabrera and family, Ignatia Cabrera/Frank Hocog and family)
 Dolores C. and Juan Camacho (Liela/Don Yumul and family, Peter Camacho and family, Nasia/Craig Sanchez and family, Juan Camacho Jr. and family)
 Bernadita C. and Mark Palacios (Velma Palacios/Eric Benavente and family, Marvin Palacios/Lani Tarope and family, Franklin Palacios, Mark Palacios)
 Pedro C. and Emerina Cabrera (Peonie Cabrera and family, Pennie Cabrera and family, Carla Laguisma and family)

Sister and Brothers In-Laws

R.Arlene Santos (V.J. and family, Steven and family, Justin and family, Marlo and family)
 Michael Benedict Diaz
 †Peter Anthony Diaz (Dominique, Teresea, Sera)
 †Paul Felix and Maria Diaz (Shawn and family, Kristie and family)

Our beloved Remedio is survived by numerous godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.



Daily Mass of intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am. Nightly rosary at 7:00 pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 17, 2020. At 7:30am, she will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Services and prayers will take place upon arrival. Last respects and final viewing will follow immediately after. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am followed by Interment Service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be peacefully laid to rest.

Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i Familia

Life & Style



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Dean-Charles Chapman, left, and George MacKay in a scene from "1917," directed by Sam Mendes. Nominations to the 92nd Academy Awards will be announced on Monday, Jan. 13.

AP

Oscar nominations are Monday morning: HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

Who will be celebrating Oscar morning? Brad Pitt for sure. Jennifer Lopez almost certainly. And very possibly the Obamas, too.

Nominations for the 92nd Academy Awards, which will begin at 8:18 a.m. EST Monday, should bring plenty of star power to the Feb. 9 ceremony — a good thing, too, since the show will for the second straight year go without a host.

Thankfully, this Oscar year isn't lacking for drama. Netflix is gunning for its first best picture win, a year after Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" fell just short. It has not just one but at least two contenders led by Martin Scorsese's elegiac crime epic "The Irishman" and Noah Baumbach's intimate divorce drama "Marriage Story."

But in the lead up to Monday's nominations, much of the momentum has gone to a pair of movies that exalt the big screen with showmanship and celebrity: Quentin Taran-

tino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," with Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio, and Sam Mendes' continuous World War I thriller, "1917." Hollywood, in the midst of a streaming upheaval, has so far favored the traditionally released movies.

Still, no definite front-runner has emerged, and nominations morning could tip the scales anew in a rapid-paced awards season that, while not lacking for the usual battery of parties, screenings and Q&As, is more condensed than usual.

The nominations, to be read by Issa Rae and John Cho, will be live streamed on Oscar.com, Oscars.org and the academy's digital social platforms. The second wave of nominees will begin at 8:30 a.m. EST and be carried live on "Good Morning America."

The Academy of Motion

Pictures Arts and Sciences select anywhere from five to 10 nominees for best picture, depending on how many first-placed votes a film gets. That's usually meant eight or nine movies. This year, the precursor guild nominations have suggested the sure things are "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," "1917," "The Irishman," Taika Waititi's "Jojo Rabbit" and Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite."

That leaves a few slots to be battled out by "Joker," "Little Women," "Ford v Ferrari," "Knives Out," "Bombshell" and "The Farewell."

"Parasite" will be the first Korean film ever nominated for an Oscar but it's likely to land several nominations, including Bong for best director and possibly Song Kang Ho for best supporting actor.

The director category

will be especially closely watched. Though Greta Gerwig ("Little Women") is a possibility, the academy is expected to nominate an all-male field despite a year in which women made significant gains behind the camera. The academy has nominated only men for best director in all but five years; Gerwig was the last woman nominated, two years ago.

In the acting categories, Renee Zellweger ("Judy") has consistently led the best actress contenders. Should Awkwafina be nominated, she would be only the second woman of Asian descent nominated in the category. (The first, 1936 nominee Merle Oberon, hid her South Asian heritage.)

Pitt has a lock on the supporting actor Oscar, which would be his first ever. Laura

Dern ("Marriage Story") and Lopez have led the supporting actress nominees. A nomination would be the first for Lopez.

The best actor category, after a few lackluster years, has been especially competitive, with Joaquin Phoenix ("Joker") and Adam Driver ("Marriage Story") as the most entrenched nominees in a field including DiCaprio, Antonio Banderas ("Pain and Glory"), Christian Bale ("Ford v Ferrari"), Eddie Murphy ("Dolemite Is My Name"), Adam Sandler ("Uncut Gems") and Robert De Niro ("The Irishman").

While a similar result Monday is unlikely, the British Film Academy last week nominated an all-white field of acting nominees. Widely criticized, the BAFTAs pledged to review its awards process.

Beyoncé will likely add an Oscar nomination to her many honors, for her "Lion King" song, "American Factory," the first release from Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground, is likely to be among the documentary nominees.

After the most dominant box-office year in Hollywood history, the Walt Disney Co. will have reasons to celebrate Monday, though their top films — including the record-setting Marvel blockbuster "Avengers: Endgame" — are expected to be largely relegated to categories like best visual effects. The studio, which has never won a best picture Academy Award, does have a few contenders via its acquisition in April of 20th Century Fox. Both "Ford v Ferrari" and "Jojo Rabbit" (released by specialty label Fox Searchlight) will compete in the top categories.

The 92nd Academy Awards will take place Feb. 9 in Los Angeles at the Dolby Theatre. ABC will again broadcast the show, viewership for which last year rose 12% to 29.6 million.

Queen prepares for royal family summit over Harry and Meghan

LONDON (AP)—Ensnared with aides at her royal retreat, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II prepared Sunday for a crisis family meeting to work out a future for Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, after their dramatic decision to walk away from royal roles.

Well-wishers cheered the monarch as she made her weekly trip to a church at her Sandringham estate in eastern England. Meanwhile, supporters of the royal family's feuding factions used the Brit-

ish media to paint conflicting pictures of who was to blame for the rift.

Royal officials said the queen had summoned her grandson Harry, his elder brother Prince William and their father Prince Charles to Sandringham, 100 miles (160 kilometers) north of London, for a meeting on Monday.

The summit reflects the queen's desire to contain the fallout from Harry and Meghan's decision to "step back" as senior royals, work

to become financially independent and split their time between Britain and North America. The couple, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, made the announcement Wednesday without telling the queen or other senior royals first.

William is expected to travel to Sandringham from London and Harry from his home in Windsor, west of the British capital. Charles will fly back from the Gulf nation of Oman, where he was attending a con-

dolence ceremony Sunday following the death of Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Meghan, who is in Canada with the couple's baby son Archie, is likely to join the meeting by phone.

Buckingham Palace said "a range of possibilities" would be discussed, but the queen was determined to resolve the situation within "days, not weeks." The palace said the goal was to agree on next steps at Monday's gathering, which follows days of talks

among royal courtiers and officials from the U.K. and Canada. Buckingham Palace stressed, however, that "any decision will take time to be implemented."

Among the details that need to be worked out are who will pay for the couple's currently taxpayer-funded security, what money-making activities they can undertake and what the tax consequences would be of moving to Canada or the United States.

"The queen has said she wants it done really fast, and that is because she doesn't

want Harry to go off in a huff, I am sure, and not come back," royal biographer Angela Levin told Sky News. "They want to maintain the link of the family. It would be an absolute tragedy if it was done with a very bad feeling."

However, evidence of bad feeling in the royal clan was spread across the pages of Britain's newspapers. The Sunday Times reported that William had told a friend he was sad that he and Harry were now "separate entities" because he wanted "everyone to play on the same team."

Riding Globes, ‘1917’ ends ‘Star Wars’ box-office reign

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It took the Great War to finally take down “Star Wars.” Director Sam Mendes’ World War I story “1917” brought in \$36.5 million in its first weekend of wide release, easily topping the box office and ending the three-week reign of “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” which brought in \$15 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Universal’s expansion

strategy worked beautifully for “1917,” as the film went from just 11 screens in its first two weeks to more than 3,400 on the weekend after it won Golden Globes for best director and best drama film, and just before Monday’s Academy Award nominations, where it’s likely to get nods in several categories. “This is the blueprint for how to perfectly execute the platform release for a potential Oscar nominee and

Oscar winner,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. While the epic wartime feel of “1917,” which was shot and edited to appear as though it was done in a single take, makes it a natural for major awards, its triumphs at the Golden Globes were a surprise over other dramas including “The Irishman” and “Marriage Story.” “I hope this means that people will turn up and see this

on the big screen, the way it was intended,” Mendes said at the Globes ceremony. Those hopes weren’t unfounded. A good weekend was expected for the film, but it shot past those expectations. “It’s the not like the kids were clamoring for a World War I trench drama,” Dergarabedian said. “A film like this could have easily slipped off the radar.” With its previous two-week take, “1917” has now earned \$39.2 million in the U.S. and Canada and over \$60 million globally. That’s of course dwarfed by Disney’s total domestic take of \$478.2 million for “Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker,” which is on the verge of

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | “1917,” \$36.5 million, (\$19.9 million international). |
| 2. | “Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker,” \$15.1 million, (\$24.2 million international). |
| 3. | “Jumanji: The Next Level,” \$14 million, (\$22.6 million international). |
| 4. | “Like a Boss,” \$10 million. |
| 4. | “Just Mercy,” \$10 million. |
| 6. | “Little Women,” \$7.65 million, (\$8.1 million international). |
| 7. | “Underwater,” \$7 million, (\$7.1 million international). |
| 8. | “Frozen 2,” \$5.76 million, (\$19.1 million international). |
| 9. | “Knives Out,” \$5.73 million, (\$5.5 million international). |
| 10. | “Spies in Disguise,” \$5.1 million, (\$11.4 million international). |

with earnings of \$14 million, and has totaled more than \$257 million domestically. Sony has a smaller sort of hit in “Little Women,” which could also make a mark at Monday’s Oscar nominations and continues its strong run for a film of its kind, bringing in another \$7.65 million to put it in the sixth spot with a total of \$74 million after three weeks. The usual January box-office blahs were in effect for the week’s new releases. “Like a Boss,” Paramount’s comedy starring Tiffany Haddish and Rose Byrne, finished in a fourth-place tie at \$10 million with “Just Mercy.”

Billy Porter to star on Jordan Peele’s ‘The Twilight Zone’

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Billy Porter is among the actors who will appear on Jordan Peele’s “The Twilight Zone” anthology series next season. Jenna Elfman, Chris Meloni, Gillian Jacobs, Joel McHale and Jimmi Simpson also will each appear in an episode for season two, the CBS All Access streaming service announced. Porter, who won a best drama actor Emmy last year for “Pose,” will be joined by

Daniel Sunjata (“Graceland”) and Ethan Embry (“Grace and Frankie,” “Blindspotting”) in an episode titled “The Who of You.” Story details were not released. Peele, an Oscar-winner for “Get Out,” has written an episode, “Downtime,” that will star Morena Baccarin (the “Deadpool” franchise), Colman Domingo (“If Beale Street Could Talk”) and Emmy-winning “Veep” star Tony Hale. Peele is co-creator, execu-

tive producer and narrator for the series, described as a “re-imagining” of the original Rod Serling anthology of the same name that aired from 1959-64 on CBS. The new version streams on the CBS All Access platform. The 10-episode season is set to arrive mid-year, with the date yet to be announced. Other announcements made by the streaming platform Sunday at a meeting of the Television Critics Association.

Ronan Farrow among nominees for book critic prizes

NEW YORK (AP)—Ronan Farrow has already won a Pulitzer Prize and George Polk Award for his reporting on Harvey Weinstein and the #MeToo movement. Now he’s up for a literary honor, a National Book Critics Circle award. Farrow was among the nominees announced this weekend by the NBCC. His “Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators,” which tracks his reporting on allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Weinstein, is a finalist in autobiography. Critics also nominated

Chanel Miller’s “Know My Name,” the acclaimed memoir by the woman sexually assaulted by Stanford University student Brock Turner. The NBCC announced five nominees in each of six competitive categories, from fiction to poetry to criticism. Winners will be announced March 12. Other finalists include Colson Whitehead’s “The Nickel Boys” and Edwidge Danticat’s “Everything Inside” in fiction, Lydia Davis’ “Essays One” for criticism and George Packer’s “Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American

Century” for biography. The NBCC announced three additional prizes. Sarah Broom’s memoir “The Yellow House,” winner of a National Book Award for non-fiction last fall, received the John Leonard Prize for best first book. The New Yorker’s Katy Waldman was awarded the Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing and the poet-novelist Naomi Shihab Nye was given the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award. Founded in 1974, the NBCC has more than 700 members from around the country.

Scorsese and ‘The Irishman’ honored by AARP

NEW YORK (AP)—The Golden Globes may not have shown much love to filmmaker Martin Scorsese and his epic “The Irishman,” but the AARP has. The lengthy mobster’s tale was just best movie for grown-ups, in the 19th annual awards doled out by AARP The Magazine. The awards ceremony was held Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif. Scorsese, its maker, was named best director. Adam Sandler, who stepped

away from roles that appealed to an audience considerably younger than the 50-plus group that the AARP awards cater to, won best actor for his serious turn as a jeweler in “Uncut Gems.” Renee Zellweger, who had the starring role in a biopic about Judy Garland, won best actress. Supporting actor awards went to Laura Dern, who played a colorful divorce lawyer in “Marriage Story,” and

Tom Hanks, who was Mr. Rogers in “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” The AARP also honored Annette Bening with a career achievement award. The movie awards for grownups came six days after the Golden Globes, which bypassed “The Irishman” to give its best drama film award to the World War I tale “1917.” The awards show, hosted by Tony Danza, will be shown on PBS on Jan. 19.

Colbert is ‘Tooning Out the News’ with new animated series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Late-night host Stephen Colbert has yet another outlet for satire: He’s producing a new series featuring animated characters who riff on current events and interview real newsmakers. “In a time of breaking news overload, ‘Tooning Out the News’ is just what the doctor ordered,” Julie McNamara, original content executive for CBS All Access, told a TV critics meeting Sunday. “Tooning Out the News” will stream on the platform as daily short segments and a full weekly episode. The segments will range from five to seven minutes each, with additional material added to round out the weekly half-hour, McNamara said.

Production is getting underway, she said, with a release date yet to be announced. Colbert is sharing producing duties with Chris Licht, executive producer for CBS’ “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert,” and RJ Fried and Tim Luecke. The four also work on Showtime’s animated political satire “Our Cartoon President.”

Parents oppose relationship with man of different culture

DEAR ABBY: I am a 25-year-old college student on the verge of graduation. Over the past three months, I have been dating a slightly younger man (he’s 21). We get along well, and I thoroughly enjoy his company. He has never been anything but kind and supportive. My parents have an issue with the match. My boyfriend is Latino, born and raised in a South American country. He speaks and understands English well, although speaking it does make him a little nervous. I speak Spanish fluently, so when we talk to each other, he speaks in Spanish and I speak in English, and we have no problem communicating. My parents think that relationships (especially marriages) are already hard enough, and adding cultural differences to the equation is a dangerous gamble for my future happiness. They strongly oppose my continuing my relationship with him. Do you think their argument is valid? I’ve looked up statistics that say marriages between a Latino man and white woman are the most likely to end in divorce (not that I’m thinking of marrying him any time soon, but one of my future goals is to be in a happy marriage, and I realize that you marry who you date). The idea of ending a relationship with someone I adore based on statistics is upsetting to me. I’d really appreciate your thoughts.

GROWN-UP IN UTAH

DEAR GROWN-UP: You have been dating this man for only three months. By the age of 25, the decision about whom you decide to EVENTUALLY marry should be yours, not your parents’, regardless of how well-meaning they are. Do not let statistics rule your life because there are always exceptions. Let this play out, and you will have your answer. ■■■ DEAR ABBY: My husband finds fault and makes negative comments about almost everything. He rarely talks to me about anything. I am not happy with my life with him. I feel there is so much I want to do and explore. He is content to stay at home, watch TV and occasionally do little projects around the house. Then it is time for TV again. We are both retired. My adult kids and my grandchildren are my whole life. We are all very close. My husband, on the other hand, rarely talks to or calls his kids, even though I encourage him to. One child no longer even speaks to him. Another one lives too far away to see him (a 10-hour drive), which is his reason for not visiting him. With no friends and very little family contact, I feel I am all he has. I want to run away, but if I do, he’d be heartbroken. Sad to say, I wouldn’t even miss him. What should I do? UNFULFILLED IN OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR UNFULFILLED: Has your husband always been this way? If the answer is no, he may be depressed, which is something that should be discussed with his doctor. I don’t think you should leave him—immediately. If you want to travel and have the means to do so, travel with some friends. The only thing you should NOT do is permit yourself to become isolated because your husband is so closed off. ■■■ To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

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ACROSS 1 O'Hara estate 5 Greek letter 8 Overly theatrical 12 Apple desktop 13 Bit of wit 14 Track shape 15 Where drinks aren't on the house 17 Corleone patriarch 18 1040 org. 19 Versailles agreement 21 Disco queen Summer 24 Equitable 25 Awe-struck 26 Elite athletes 30 De-bussy's "La —" 31 Beam 32 Blue 33 Advanced study groups

DOWN 35 Slugger Sammy 36 Cigar remnant 37 Porter-house, e.g. 38 Break a promise 41 Luau bowlful 42 Latin love 43 Pre-owned wheels 48 Dame Dench 49 Scooted 50 Swiss artist Paul 51 Cruising 52 Junior 53 Harvard rival

DOWN 21 River blockers 22 Curved molding 23 Par 24 Toy (with) 26 Non-professionals 27 Lotion additive 28 Activist Parks 29 Love letter abbr. 31 Tight-fitting 34 Portugal's place 35 Viscid 37 Lay down the lawn 38 Prince of India 39 Flightless birds 40 Protuberance 41 Ivy League team 44 — Paulo 45 Carte lead-in 46 Seminary subj. 47 Observe

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dave Grohl, 51; Jason Bateman, 51; LL Cool J, 52; Holland Taylor, 77.

Happy Birthday: You'll be able to use your power of persuasion to get the help you need to get ahead. A little charm, coupled with incentive, will enable you to bring about changes that will make your life better. Strive for perfection, and it will open doors that were locked in the past. Don't hesitate to make things happen. Your numbers are 9, 14, 23, 26, 34, 39, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't believe everything you hear. Search the internet, and you will be able to verify the information you need to make the right decision. Impress everyone with unique solutions. A take-charge attitude will help you achieve your goal. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When in doubt, ask. A kind gesture made to someone in your life will change the way you view life and the direction you want to take. Send out resumes, go for interviews and consider your options. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A positive attitude will bring you one step closer to your goal. It's a new year and a great time to make changes that will help build confidence and the life you want to live. Use your imagination and formulate your strategy. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try not to be overwhelmed with the changes that are heading in your direction. If you are eager to learn and go with the flow, you will end

up in a good position. A financial plan will turn into a prosperous venture. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep the momentum going. Good things will come to you if you are willing to put in the labor. Make plans to do something special with someone you love. Networking is favored, but don't take a physical risk. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Perfection may be your thing, but today you will have to settle for a little less accuracy. Refuse to let anger or disappointment set in, or you will miss out on what matters. Make fun a priority. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't overthink or share too much personal information with others. Take a back seat and watch how others react to situations, and you will discover how best to respond when the time is right. Do your own thing. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Offer honesty and straightforwardness, and you will avoid vague answers. Take a different direction if that's what feels best for you. Personal growth and updating your image are favored. A romantic gesture will bring you closer to someone you love. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your emotions take over and lead to disappointment. Steer clear of debates that are impossible to win. Give everyone the same freedom you want in return. Offer extra detail -- shortcuts will not be well-received. **

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): All you have to do is follow through. Take pride in what you do, and you'll make a name for yourself. Money matters will fall into place, and greater prosperity is heading your way. A positive physical change will boost your morale. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Donating or overspending will leave you short of cash. Consider offering your services and skills instead of money. Additional work will come your way if you do a good job. Put your time and effort into earning, not spending. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An offer is heading your way. You'll be able to change your position if you are quick to respond. A change in a relationship will catch you by surprise. Don't act too fast or you'll end up with less leverage. ***

Birthday Baby: You are driven, ambitious and calculating. You are reserved and pragmatic.

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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S FROLIC Solution: 6 letters

E P C O M P A N Y L L I S P P
C R R A A O W C S T E P P M I
N A U T R A S E D I R O U R
U N I T N N D N P N O R R J T
O C S D N R I A I M D I T U O
B E E Y I E E V E N C A R O O
T R A V E L V N A H G N E G T
S L E E C N A D I L S S N L L
P K L A W D E L A L U I A A E
R N I O E B D S A M G R U M D
I A E P R R E M A G K G A P I
N R K K E T I A O H H R A C R
G P I N T N S J C V C C A H T
N D B M A E R D C H E E R P S
S D O O W E A T H E R E L A X

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Adventure, Amuse, Animals, Beach, Bike, Bounce, Carnival, Chase, Cheer, Children, Company, Cruise, Dance, Dream, Drive, Hop, Jogging, Jump, Kids, Lark, Laugh, Lead, Leap, March, Morning, Move, Pace, Park, Pets, Play, France, Prank, Promenade, Relax, Rides, Romp, Silly, Skip, Spin, Sport, Spring, Stride, Stroll, Tootle, Travel, Trip, Turn, Walk, Wander, Water, Weather, Woods

Yesterdays Answer: Meanings

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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MAN Y

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Chiefs rally from 24-0 hole to beat Texans, 51-31



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes stalked up and down the sideline like a field marshal rallying his troops, the brilliant young quarterback imploring the Kansas City Chiefs to stay together even as the Houston Texans were on the verge of taking them apart.

The Chiefs already faced a 24-0 hole, bigger than any deficit they had overcome in franchise history.

"The biggest thing I was preaching," Mahomes said later, "was, 'Let's go do something special. Everybody is counting us out. Let's go out there and play by play put it out there.' And play by play, we did what we were supposed to do."

Beginning with the first of his five touchdown passes, Mahomes and the Chiefs slowly chipped away at Houston's seemingly insurmountable lead. They continued to pick up momentum, outscoring the Texans 28-0 during the second quarter alone, and eventually reeled off 41 consecutive points before cruising the rest of the way to a 51-31 victory Sunday that propelled Kansas City back to the AFC championship game for the second consecutive season.

In doing so, the Chiefs (13-4) became the first team in NFL history to win a playoff game by at least 20 points after trailing by at least 20. They matched the fourth-biggest comeback in playoff history while winning a postseason game in back-to-back seasons for the first time. Travis Kelce and Damien Williams scored three touchdowns apiece, joining the 49ers' Jerry Rice and Ricky Waters in Super Bowl 29 as the only teammates to score that many times in a postseason game.

Meanwhile, Mahomes led by example as much as by voice. He finished with 321 yards passing, becoming the first player in postseason history with at least 300 yards passing and five touchdowns while running for at least 50 more yards.

"You saw him going up and down the bench, he was talking to everybody, — 'Just settle down,'" Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "As a head coach, you can't ask for more than that. When he's the leader of your team and he's going, 'Hey, we're going to be fine. Let's not wait for the fourth quarter. Let's go!' And he did that."

Now, after losing to the Patriots in overtime in last year's conference title game, the Chiefs are back on the brink of their first Super Bowl appearance in 50 years. They will host Tennessee next Sunday in a rematch from earlier this



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) celebrates after throwing a touchdown pass during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Houston Texans, in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020

season after the Titans upset Lamar Jackson and the top-seeded Baltimore Ravens on Saturday night.

"We've already played them and we know they're a tough team," Mahomes said. "They're a team that battles all the way until the end. They're a team that's really hot, playing really good football right now, so we know it's going to take our best effort. And, whatever way, we've got to find a way to win."

Deshaun Watson, meanwhile, threw for 388 yards and two touchdowns while running for another, but not even his heroics could bail out the Texans (11-7) after their calamitous second quarter and dismal third. The result: The reborn Houston franchise is 0-4 in the divisional round and has never won a road playoff game.

"I definitely thought we were going to have to score more than 24," said Texans coach Bill O'Brien, who made a series of debatable calls during the collapse. "I think that they're, obviously, a very explosive team and it just didn't work out."

The Chiefs certainly gave Houston a chance to end their frustrating playoff streak in the first quarter.

On defense, Kansas City blew coverage on Kenny Stills

on the opening possession, allowing him to walk into the end zone from 54 yards. On offense, they wasted timeouts, dropped a series of easy passes and managed just 46 yards. And on special teams, the Chiefs had a punt blocked for a score and fumbled a return that set up another touchdown.

Indeed, the Texans kept humming right along after finishing on a 22-3 run to beat Buffalo last week, while the mountain of miscues made by the Chiefs made them only the fourth home playoff team to trail 21-0 after the first quarter.

Things turned around on a series of plays — and a call by O'Brien in particular — that will be debated for a while.

After the Texans stretched the lead to 24-0 early in the second quarter, the Chiefs began to nip into their deficit with a quick touchdown drive. And the comeback really gained momentum when O'Brien called for a fake punt at the Houston 31-yard line and the Chiefs stuffed it, giving them a short field and setting up another easy touchdown.

"We had that play ready for a variety of different teams and situations," said the Texans' Justin Reid, who took the snap and was stopped short of the first down. "Credit to

them, they made the play."

As the Chiefs continued to take off, the Texans continued to stumble.

On the ensuing kickoff, Houston return man DeAndre Carter had the ball pop loose and into the arms of Darwin Thompson, whose recovery set up a second Mahomes-to-Kelce touchdown in a matter of seconds. And their third came after the Chiefs forced a punt — a successful one, for a change — and they drove 90 yards to take a stunning 28-24 halftime lead.

"I mean, it was an amazing thing. Everything was working," Mahomes said. "The play calls were open, everybody was getting open against man-coverage which we've been preaching all season long, and guys were making plays."

The comeback became a clobbering by the time the third quarter ended.

The Chiefs breezed downfield to start the second half, and Williams finished the drive with his first TD run. Their overhauled defense under coordinator Steve Spagnuolo sacked Watson on fourth down to get the ball right back, and Mahomes and Co. required just six more plays to position Williams for another TD run and a 41-24 lead.

The 41 consecutive points,

spanning most of the second and third quarters, were the most since the Jets had the same against the Colts in the 2002 wild-card round.

Even when the Texans finally cracked the scoreboard, when Watson scrambled to his left and dived over the pylon, the Chiefs rendered the touchdown moot. In four plays they went 72 yards to set up the fifth TD pass by Mahomes, the strike to little-used tight end Blake Bell giving coach Andy Reid's team a postseason-record seven straight TD drives.

Packers 28, Seahawks 23

In Green Bay, Wis., Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers have relied more on character and resilience than offense or defense this season, lagging well behind past editions in aesthetics.

This divisional round win over Seattle, though, was a vintage Rodgers performance. He helped the Packers pull within a game of the Super Bowl with an array of clutch completions at the most critical of moments.

Rodgers connected with Davante Adams eight times for 160 yards and two touchdowns, Green Bay's spruced-up defense fended off a spirited Seahawks rally, and the

Packers held on for a 28-23 victory Sunday night to reach the NFC championship game for the third time in six years.

"It's one of those feelings that starts to creep up in warmups, when you really feel like you're locked in," Rodgers said, "and I was glad it translated to the field."

Aaron Jones rushed for 62 yards and two first-half scores for the Packers (14-3), who will travel next weekend to take on top-seeded San Francisco. Rodgers, who went 16 for 27 for 243 yards in his 17th career postseason start, Rodgers has 38 touchdown passes in the playoffs. That's good for fifth in league history.

"He's definitely hungry for another Super Bowl. He deserves it, so we're doing everything in our power to put him in that position," said Adams, who set Green Bay's postseason record for receiving yards.

Russell Wilson carried the Seahawks (12-6) on yet another comeback, this time from a 21-3 halftime deficit, but the Packers forced a punt shortly before the two-minute warning on the second sack of the game by Preston Smith. That was Green Bay's fifth of the game.

"Five minutes left, we're getting the ball back, the thing's going to be over. We're going to win it," Wilson said. "I think everybody in the stadium, and I think everybody watching felt like that, too."

The Seahawks never got the ball again.

Rodgers sealed the win with two third-down throws: a 32-yard strike to Adams on third-and-8 with 2:19 left and then for 9 yards to Jimmy Graham on third-and-9 right after the two-minute warning to take down a Seahawks team that was 8-1 on the road this season entering the game.

"I'm just going to enjoy a nice glass of scotch tonight," Rodgers said, "and get on to the film of San Fran and get ready for a tough opponent."

Rodgers exacted some payback for five years ago, when the Packers blew a 16-0 halftime lead in the NFC championship game at Seattle and were beaten 28-22 in overtime. The Seahawks lost their next game to New England when Wilson was famously intercepted late at the goal line and haven't been back to the conference title game since then.

Jokic helps Nuggets hold on for win over Clippers



DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets put an ugly loss behind them with a statement win over a top-tier team.

Nikola Jokic had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and the Nuggets withstood a big rally to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 114-104 on Sunday night.

This bounce-back performance was just what they needed to soothe their psyche after a clunker the night before against a struggling Cleveland squad.

"We looked like a totally different team less than 24 hours later," guard Monte Morris said.

The moral was easy to decipher: "We have to come to play against teams we're supposed to beat," Morris said. "Because we always show up against teams we know that can beat us."

Trailing by as many 20 points in the second half, Los Angeles had pulled within six with 1:11 remaining when Patrick Beverley was called for a foul on Jokic. After the Nuggets big man made a pair of free throws, Clippers coach Doc Rivers argued with official Nick Buchert. He was given two technical fouls and tossed from the game. Jamal Murray hit both free throws to restore some much-needed breathing room.

"Listen, coaches can lose their composure, so can officials," Rivers explained. "There's no way I should have been thrown out of the game."

Rivers had simply reached his boiling point. He was still seething from a crucial call earlier in the quarter when Montrezl Harrell got whistled for an offensive charge when he stepped in front of Jerami Grant as Grant guarded Kawhi Leonard. The Clippers were in the midst of a 10-0 run at the time.

"The pick was solid," Rivers said. "The bottom line is I shouldn't get a tech. That's No. 1. That's on me."



AP
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) drives his head into Los Angeles Clippers center Ivica Zubac (40) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020, in Denver.

Murray finished with 19 points and reserve Michael Porter Jr. provided a spark by scoring 13 for the Nuggets, who made their last field goal with 6:12 remaining. They went 9 of 10 on free throws from there.

The defensive standout of the game was Grant, who had two big blocks on Leonard.

"A couple of great blocks at the rim you don't see very often against Kawhi," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

Leonard finished with 30 points, while Lou Williams had 26 and Harrell added 25.

The Clippers played without star forward Paul George, who missed a second straight game with a strained left hamstring. Los Angeles dropped to 8-6 this season when George doesn't play.

This contest marked the first of three between two of the upper echelon teams in the Western Conference.

Gary Harris showed signs of breaking out of a shooting

slump by scoring 15 points but didn't play late. He's been diligently working on his jumper after shooting 25.6% over his last four games. He was 5 of 9 against the Clippers.

"When he makes shots, the guys need to chase him and it's a little different story," said Jokic, whose team led by as many as 20 points in the second half.

Denver had quite a sequence midway through the fourth when Will Barton blocked a shot and Jokic grabbed the rebound. He quickly threw it ahead to Barton, who then dished it off to Morris for a 3-pointer. Denver was up 18 and seemingly cruising along before the Clippers made things interesting down the stretch.

"The focus was there. The energy was there," Jokic said. "It was a big victory for us."

Nets 108, Hawks 86

In New York, Kyrie Irving scored 21 points in 20 minutes of an easy return from a

two-month absence with an injured right shoulder, leading the Brooklyn Nets to a 108-86 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday.

Irving shot 10 for 11 from the field after missing 26 games with an impingement. The shoulder looked fine and his handle looked as good as ever while he dribbled his way around a hopeless Atlanta defense.

Energized by his return that still seemed a ways away just a week ago, the Nets led by 39 points and won their second straight after dropping seven in a row.

Cam Reddish scored 20 points for the Hawks. They played without star guard Trae Young because of a left hamstring injury and lost their fourth straight.

Jazz 127, Wizards 116

In Washington, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 31 points, Rudy Gobert added 21 points and 14 rebounds and Utah

beat Washington for its ninth straight victory.

Utah overcame a 15-point deficit in the third quarter to win for the 14th time in 15 games. Jordan Clarkson had 17 of his 23 points in the second half. Utah scoring leader Donovan Mitchell sat out because of an illness.

Bradley Beal scored 25 points for Washington after missing five games with right leg soreness.

Spurs 105, Raptors 104

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points, Rudy Gay had 15 and San Antonio overcame an 18-point deficit to beat Toronto.

San Antonio used a big fourth quarter to win for the third time in four games. Derrick White scored 13 points for the Spurs, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 11. DeRozan also had eight rebounds and four assists against his former team.

Serge Ibaka had 21 points and a season-high 15

rebounds for Toronto. Kyle Lowry had 16 points and a season-high 15 assists.

Suns 100, Hornets 92

In Phoenix, Kelly Oubre Jr. had 25 points and 15 rebounds in Phoenix's victory over Charlotte.

Oubre scored 15 points in the second half on a night when Suns star guard Devin Booker struggled from the floor, shooting 3 of 12. He had 12 points and nine assists.

Deandre Ayton added 18 points and nine rebounds for Phoenix.

Dwayne Bacon scored 24 points for the Hornets.

Grizzlies 122, Warriors 102

In Memphis, Tenn., Jonas Valanciunas had 31 points and a season-high 19 rebounds and Memphis handed Golden State its eighth straight loss.

Valanciunas was 13 of 17 from the field, including a 3-pointer to help the Grizzlies win their fifth straight. Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 21 points, and Ja Morant had 11 points and 10 assists.

D'Angelo Russell led the Warriors with 34 points in his return from a right shoulder injury.

Knicks 124, Heat 121

In New York, Julius Randle scored 26 points, RJ Barrett chipped in 23 and New York rallied to beat Miami.

Kevin Knox had 17 points off the bench and Reggie Bullock added 16 to help the Knicks snap a five-game losing streak.

Jimmy Butler had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat. They blew a lead down the stretch for the second time.

HONOLULU (AP)—Cameron Smith was running out of holes, but not hope.

Smith was two shots behind with two holes to play in the steady rain Sunday at the Sony Open, and Brendan Steele had not shown any signs of cracking. Three holes later, Smith only had to two-putt from 10 feet to win a playoff.

"I just hung in there, and what do you know?" Smith said.

The 26-year-old Australian finally had a PGA Tour title he could call his own. He had won twice at the Australian PGA Championship, and he shared the team title with Jonas Blixt at the Zurich Classic

Cameron Smith wins Sony Open in playoff after wild finish

in New Orleans in 2017.

For this PGA Tour victory, his help came from the guy he was trying to beat.

Steele had a three-shot lead when he holed a bunker shot for birdie on the 11th hole and he never trailed the entire day until it fell apart at the end. He missed a 6-foot par putt on the 17th, and then hit a wild hook from the fairway on the par-5 18th and never had a reasonable look at birdie.

On the 10th hole for the playoff, Steele was in ideal position in the fairway, 88 yards from the hole, when he hit wedge over the green. He

chipped off the rain-soaked grass and mud to 15 feet and missed the par putt. Smith, who had driven into right rough, chased his shot to 10 feet. He never imagined winning would come down to two putts from short range.

"I thought I had to birdie 17 and do something special on 18," Smith said. "Things fell into place."

He helped with a clutch putt. On the 18th, Smith hit a 3-iron just short and into a bunker, blasted out over the puddles forming on the green to 8 feet and knocked it in for

a 2-under 68 to force a playoff.

Steele was trying to win for the first time in just over two years. This was hard to take.

"Everything that could go wrong went wrong today," Steele said after a 71.

The victory assures Smith a spot in the Masters. He also is assured a return to Hawaii next year for the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

"That's been one I've wanted to tick off for a long time, to finally say I've won an event by myself," Smith said. "It's quite good."



this week and it's been blowing pretty hard every day," he said. "I don't really have a gauge for it to be blowing just 5 mph or whatever it was. I think I just over played it because of the way it's been the last few days."

A final round that was wet, gray and full came to life in the final hour, which is about how long it took to play the last two holes because the maintenance crew kept having to squeegee the 18th green.

Steele brought possibilities into play when he missed the green to the left on the par-3 17th, pitched to 6 feet and missed his par putt, reducing his lead to a single shot.

Super Bowl-winning coach Jimmy Johnson into Hall of Fame

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Jimmy Johnson, who coached the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl championships in the 1990s, has been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The hall announced his selection Sunday night as part of a centennial class that was chosen on Wednesday by a special committee. Former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher was revealed Saturday night as the other coach being inducted.

"The only thing I can think of is all the assistant coaches who worked for me, all the great players who played for me are the reason," said a teary-eyed Johnson, 76. "I can't talk."

"This is so special to me because when you put in the work that we put in, it is nice for those people to appreciate it."

One of his best players, Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman, could be seen tearing up as he heard the announcement from Green Bay, where he was announcing the Seahawks-Packers playoff game.

Hall of Fame President David Baker made the presentation during halftime of Fox's telecast.

A successful college coach at Oklahoma State and Miami, where he won a national



championship in 1987, Johnson was hired in 1989 by new Cowboys owner Jerry Jones. His initial team went 1-15, but Johnson rebuilt the roster — including trading star running back Herschel Walker to Minnesota for a slew of draft picks and players who were converted into draft choices. That deal is considered among the most one-sided in sports his-

tory, and it netted, among others, the draft pick that brought Emmitt Smith to Dallas.

Johnson left the Cowboys after the back-to-back championships for the 1992 and '93 seasons in a dispute with Jones. But the roster he built, under his college rival Barry Switzer, won the 1995 NFL crown, too.

Johnson's selection for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame:

"We're so happy that the Hall of Fame has recognized Jimmy Johnson for what he is," Jones said. "A great coach."

"To Jimmy I say, 'The stars were aligned and our dreams came true when we joined the Dallas Cowboys.'"



George Nicolau dies at 94, arbitrator in MLB collusion cases



NEW YORK (AP)—George Nicolau, who ruled against baseball owners in two collusion cases and served as president of the National Academy of Arbitrators, has died. He was 94.

Nicolau died Jan. 2 at Lenox Hill Hospital, Gene Orza, the former chief operating officer of the Major League Baseball Players Association, said Friday.

Nicolau took over as the independent chairman of Major League Baseball's arbitration panel in 1986 after owners fired Thomas Roberts, who ruled teams acted in concert against free agents after the 1985 season. Nicolau decided teams acted in concert against free agents after the 1986 and 1987 seasons. The cases were settled in 1990 when management agreed with the players' union to pay those players affected \$280 million.

In another notable decision, Nicolau decided in 1987 to cut short a season-long suspension of free agent pitcher LaMarr Hoyt to 60 days. Hoyt had been penalized for his involvement in three illegal drug incidents during 1986.

Nicolau decided to reinstate Steve Howe in November 1992, overturning a lifetime ban imposed by Commission-

er Fay Vincent the previous June. The pitcher was suspended seven times for infractions related to drug or alcohol use. Nicolau determined Howe had a psychiatric disorder and the commissioner's office didn't adequately test him.

In a case with impact for many players, he ruled in 1986 against pitcher Dennis Lamp's grievance that Toronto held him out of games so he could not accumulate bonuses hinged to his games played.

"George Nicolau was an outstanding professional, a true giant among labor arbitrators," said Commissioner Rob Manfred, who often appeared before Nicolau as a management lawyer. "He deftly handled many difficult cases in baseball and always had the respect of both parties."

Nicolau also served as the independent arbitrator for the NBA and the National Basketball Players Association from 1979-81 and the NHL and the NHL Players Association from 1993-96.

"He was intelligent, fearless and incisive, always presiding with dignity, grace and humor," said former baseball union head Donald Fehr, who now is head of the NHL union. "He wielded power of the written word to convey both understanding of the issues

and the justice of the result as well as anyone ever has. Above all, he always acted with consummate integrity and gravitas that inspired all who worked with him to rise above the short term and seek out common ground."

Nicolau remained baseball's panel chairman until 1995, when he was replaced by Nicholas Zumas. Nicolau's term is the second longest in baseball behind Shyam Das, who served from 1999-2012.

"Players owe a great debt of gratitude to George Nicolau," current union head Tony Clark said in a statement, adding the arbitrator "helped preserve the integrity of free agency."

A Detroit Tigers fan, Nicolau was a son of Greek immigrants who ran restaurants in Detroit and Jackson, Michigan. He kept Hank Greenberg's picture hanging in the kitchen of his Manhattan townhouse.

"He became a friend, with all the attributes you'd want in one," Orza said. "He was generous, witty, smart, principled, and kind. ... He'd have made a great novelist."

Nicolau was born in Detroit on Feb. 14, 1925, then moved with his family to Jackson when he was about 5. He went into the Army Air Corps as a second lieutenant, flew four missions in B-17 Fly-

ing Fortresses over Germany as a bomber navigator during World War II and lost a leg during his service. On the second mission, the plane was to bomb an airfield in Evreux but went off course and wound up over Nazi-occupied Paris. But the pilot refused to believe it.

"I know the Eiffel Tower when I see it," Nicolau said during a 1990 interview with The Associated Press, recalling what he told the pilot.

During his fourth mission, Nicolau got hit with flak en route to Leipzig, Germany. His left leg was badly injured.

"It was hanging by a thread two days later," he said. "The bone was shattered."

After a year's convalescence, he attended the University of Michigan. He went on to Columbia Law School and became a labor lawyer for 12 years.

At his first law firm, Sheehan & Harold, he represented locals of the International Typographical Union, the Printing Pressman and the Atomic Energy Workers. In 1954, he joined Cooper, Ostrin and DeVarco, where he represented the Newspaper Guild, the Communications Workers of America, the National Maritime Union and Actors Equity. He was one of the advisers who led Equity through its initial strike in 1960.

Johnson later coached the Miami Dolphins before becoming a Fox TV analyst.

"Think of all the great players I have coached over the years," Johnson said. "From me to you: Thank you."

In his nine pro seasons (five in Dallas, four in Miami), he went 89-68. Johnson led the Cowboys to three playoff appearances and the two Super Bowl victories, and took the

AP
In this Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, file photo, former Miami football coach Jimmy Johnson talks to the media after an NCAA college football practice in Coral Gables, Fla. Johnson, who coached the Dallas Cowboys to two Super Bowl championships in the 1990s, has been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Dolphins to three postseason appearances.

The special panel met in Canton, Ohio, on Wednesday to elect the centennial slate for this year's class of inductees, marking the first time any members were elected during a selection meeting held at the hall.

The centennial slate includes 10 "seniors" (players who last played more than 25 seasons ago), three "contributors" (an individual other than a player or coach) and the two coaches (who last coached more than five seasons ago) and were voted on from a list of 38 finalists. The remainder of the 15-person centennial slate will be revealed live on "Good Morning Football" on Wednesday.

The Hall of Fame's overall class will consist of 20 members, including an additional five who will be added the day before the Super Bowl, when the modern-era player finalists are voted on by the usual selection committee.

Wozniacki withdraws from Kooyong ahead of Australian Open

Former world No.1 Caroline Wozniacki will have no further preparation before her final career appearance at the Australian Open after withdrawing Monday from the traditional warm-up tournament at Kooyong.

The 29-year-old Dane has announced she will retire after the Australian Open, where in 2018 she won her only Grand Slam title.

Now ranked 35th, Wozniacki was due to play in a select women's field at Kooyong but informed Australian organizers Monday that she was withdrawing.

"She's pulled up a bit sore after playing (at the ASB Classic) in Auckland so as a precaution ahead of the Open she's decided not to play," tournament director Peter Johnston said.

Wozniacki reached the singles semifinals at the ASB Classic and the doubles final with long-time friend Serena Williams, the first time the two have combined in doubles.

Australian Open organizers said Saturday that U.S. Open champion Bianca Andreescu, Juan Martin del Potro and

Richard Gasquet have withdrawn due to knee injuries.

"The Australian Open is unfortunately too soon in

my rehab process and I sadly will not be able to play in it this year," Andreescu said.

"It was a very tough decision to make as I love to play in Melbourne but I have to respect the recuperation plan for my (left) knee and body."

The Australian Open, the first Grand Slam of the season, starts Jan. 20 in Melbourne. Tournament officials said on Twitter that Gasquet had withdrawn with a knee injury while del Potro was also recovering from a knee ailment.

The 19-year-old Andreescu, Canada's first winner of a Grand Slam singles tournament, hasn't played since suffering the injury at the WTA Finals in October in China.

A shoulder injury last March kept her out of all but one match from April through July.

She retired after one match at last year's French Open, didn't play at Wimbledon in 2019, before going on to win the U.S. Open. (AP)



US men face Mexico, Costa Rica in Olympic qualifiers

MIAMI (AP)—The United States was drawn Thursday night into a difficult group with Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic in men's qualifying for next summer's Olympic soccer tournament.

Group B includes Canada, El Salvador, Haiti and Honduras.

Qualifying for North and Central America and the Caribbean will take place at Guadalajara, Mexico, in the Jalisco and Akron stadiums during a FIFA international match window from March 20 to April 1. The U.S., which failed to qualify for the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, plays Costa Rica on March 20, the Dominican Republic on March 23 and Mexico on March 26.

While FIFA requires clubs to release players to senior national teams during international windows, soccer's rules leave the decision to clubs on whether to release players to youth national teams. Olympic men's soccer qualifying is limited to players born on or after Jan. 1, 1997, and it is uncertain whether the U.S. can

use top young players with European clubs such as Christian Pulisic, Weston McKennie and Tyler Adams.

The top two teams in each group advance, and the semifinal winners on March 30 qualify for the 16-nation men's tournament in Japan, to be played from July 23 to Aug. 8. At the Olympics, each men's national team can include up to three players over the age limit on its 20-man roster.

CONCACAF men's qualifying was in Guadalajara ahead of the 2004 Olympics and in the U.S. for the last three Olympics. The Americans failed to advance from the group stage of 2012 qualifying, beating Cuba 6-0 but losing to Canada 2-0 and tying El Salvador 3-3. The U.S. lost to Honduras 2-0 in the semifinals of 2016 qualifying.

Meanwhile, the political neutrality of the Olympics would be undercut if an athlete took a knee in protest on the medal podium at this year's Tokyo Games, IOC President Thomas Bach said Friday.

One day after the International Olympic Committee published guidelines specifying which type of protests are prohibited in venues and medal ceremonies, Bach added his support.

"They (the Olympics) are not and must never be a platform to advance political or any other divisive ends," Bach said to an audience that included the heads of international sports federations. "Our political neutrality is undermined whenever organizations or individuals attempt to use the Olympic Games as a stage for their own agendas, as legitimate as they may be."

Bach robustly defended two long-standing Olympic Charter rules in a 25-minute speech. Rule 50 prohibits any "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda" in Olympic areas. Rule 40 restricts an athlete's ability to

promote his or her own sponsors at a time when many of them receive a huge amount of attention.

Taking a knee, making hand gestures with political meaning, and refusing to respect fellow medalists on the podium are highlighted as "divisive disruption" in the new guidelines.

Recent examples of such protests have been seen at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, the swimming world championships and the Pan-American Games.

Athletes copying the iconic raised fist salutes by American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics could be sent home from Tokyo as part of three potential rounds of disciplinary action—by their team, their sport, and the IOC.

Bach cautioned that "the eyes of the world will be on

the athletes and the Olympic Games" in Tokyo.

The protest guidelines—which allow athletes to express political opinions on their social media accounts—were formally approved by the IOC Athletes' Commission. That panel rarely takes a different view from the Bach-chaired IOC executive board.

The Athletes' Commission has also advised competitors against acting independently to challenge Rule 40 or support commercially-run sports events organized outside the Olympic system.

"Our solidarity-based model is not for sale," Bach said Friday.

The IOC has long argued that promising exclusivity to Olympic sponsors—including Coca-Cola, Intel and Visa—maintains the value of those deals to ensure more money is available for distribution to games organizers, sports and

national Olympic bodies.

Revenue was \$5.6 billion from television and commercial deals in a four-year cycle tied to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi and 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Bach warned against a "purely profit-driven" IOC finance model.

The current system, which limits an athlete's personal earning potential, helped ensure an Olympics with 33 sports in Tokyo and teams from all 206 national Olympic bodies, whose travel and accommodations costs are covered, he said.

More than 1,600 athletes worldwide are getting Olympic scholarships to train.

"With our values of peace, unity and solidarity, we stand in sharp contrast to the zeitgeist of our times," said Bach, identifying "divisions, of nationalism and of discrimination."

SAIMAR

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line and Esdreton combined for 12, lifting Blue Haus to a 29-15 advantage after the opening canto.

Blue Haus continued to spread the wealth in the second quarter to pad its lead to 54-28 and the unbeaten team was never threatened in the second half to keep its record clean.

In last Thursday's game, Saimar Pilot saved the best for last, firing 42 points in the fourth frame to rout PPG Paints.

Before going all out in the final canto, Saimar Pilot was just ahead by 8 at the end of the third, 59-51. Bogs Dayrit then anchored Saimar Pilot's break-away in the fourth period after scoring 11 points. He finished with 18 markers, matching the team-high output of Andrew Ashburn.

Melvin Villarin, Edong Echavez, and Santos also fin-

ished in double figures for Saimar Pilot, recording 14, 13, and 11, respectively.

While Saimar Pilot drew contributions from several players, PPG Paints relied heavily on Sonny Ebuon, who posted 26 points.

Thursday's Game

Saimar Pilot 101—Ashburn 18, Dayrit 18, Villarin 14, Echavez 13, Santos 11, Raho 7, Guinto 7, Tolentino 6.

PPG Paints 82—Ebuon 26, Montoya 14, Galulu 12, Samson 7, Lanzaga 4, Alano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-22, 37-38, 59-51, 101-82.

Saturday's Game

Blue Haus 95—Berline 16, Esdreton 16, E. Diaz 15, Santos 15, Guiab 11, Garcia 11, T. Diaz 6, Buenabajo 3, Peredo 2.

Islander 60—Mostales 15, Umali 12, Ritual 10, Sedillo 8, Saplan 6, Factor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-16, 54-28, 74-44, 95-60.

TSUNAMI

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100m freestyle (1:32.66), 50m butterfly (47.13 seconds), and 50m freestyle (43.12 seconds) and achieved PBs, too.

Braxton competed in four events, also—50m backstroke (37.50 seconds), 100m freestyle (1:10.44), 100m backstroke (1:26.75), and 50m freestyle (32 seconds)—finishing second in her first race and third in the three other.

"Aoi just restarted swimming with Tsunami Saipan last year. She works hard and little by little meeting coach's expectations," Kimura said.

Meanwhile, Guerrero joined the 50m breaststroke (36.38 seconds) and 50m freestyle (29.16) and got PBs while also placing first in the first race. He earned another PB in the 100m breaststroke (1:21.80) and finished third in the 17 to 18 age group.

"Kevin really kept working hard and trained at home as well as in regular practices. I believe he will be able to reach an A grade, soon," the head coach added.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kevin Guerrero, second left, gets ready to race in the 50m freestyle event in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam early this month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sari Barman is at the starting block of the 100m freestyle event in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam earlier this month.

CTSI

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got the possession back and had a chance to tie the match anew with a 2-pointer or win it outright with a triple after Pagarao was slapped with an offensive foul, down to the final 10.3 seconds. However, CTSI's defense did a great job sticking to the Lady Ol'Aces' shooters with Pagarao and Nanaka Watanabe hounding Camacho, who though she managed to put up a shot in front of their bench, it was way off and the ball went out of the baseline as time expired.

Travilla top-scored for CTSI



ROSELYN B. MONROY
The Lady Ol'Aces' Cassandra Camacho leads the team's attack in the closing seconds of regulation during their game against CTSI in the women's division finals of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

in the title win, making all her 15 points from beyond the arc. Pagarao also finished in twin digits with her 14 markers, while Watanabe tallied 8.

Camacho and Lia Rangamar had 14 and 12 points, respectively, on a losing effort, while Cassandra Camacho chipped in 8, including the equalizer in the regulation. Cassandra also had a chance to make the game-winner in the fourth quarter after Pagarao missed an open shot from the 3-point area and the former got the rebound and dribbled all the way to their frontcourt. However, Cassandra hesitated, as when she was about to pull up for long shot, she faced a CTSI

defender. Cassandra was called for a travelling violation and CTSI got the last possession with 0.6 of a second left in regulation.

The time was not enough for CTSI to attempt a decent shot, as it inbounded the ball from the backcourt, sending the finale in overtime.

CTSI 46—Travilla 15, Pagarao 14, Watanabe 8, Alegre 2, W. Echavez 3, Oiterong 2, Kautz 2.

Lady Ol'Aces 44—Camacho 14, Rangamar 12, Ca. Camacho 8, Kenty 2, Pangelinan 2.

Scoring by quarter: 29-26, 40-40, 46-44.



Chiefs rally from
24-0 hole to beat
Texans, 51-31

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Jokic helps Nuggets
hold on for win over
Clippers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CTSI rips Lady Ol'Aces in OT



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CTSI needed extra minutes to secure the women's division championship in the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament, eking out a 46-44 victory over the Lady Ol'Aces last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Jan Travilla knocked in a go-ahead triple in overtime, while Irish Pagarao also scored 3 points in the extension to help CTSI survive the Ol'Aces.

The Lady Ol'Aces drew first blood in OT with Connie Camacho hitting a running jumper, 42-40, with a little over three minutes left in the game. Both teams traded errors and misses in the ensuing play before Travilla, who was practicing her shooting from beyond the arc while waiting for the game to resume, unloaded a trey to put CTSI back in the lead, 43-42. Pagarao made it a 4-point cushion when she delivered on a

coast-to-coast layup and split her charities, 46-42, with less than a minute left in the finale.

Pagarao tried to drive anew against a phalanx of Lady Ol'Aces defenders and begged for foul, but it was a let-go play. Pagarao stayed back, as she fell on the floor, leaving

CTSI one man down on defense and allowing the Lady Ol'Aces' Jaime Pangelinan to bank in a shot and keep their team in the game, 27.8 seconds remaining on the clock.

The Lady Ol'Aces then

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
CTSI's Nanaka Watanabe, right, takes off for a shot against the Lady Ol'Aces' Jaime Pangelinan during their game in the women's division finals of the 2019 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Tsunami Saipan coach commends 3 swimmers



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura made special mention of three swimmers for shining in the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet held at the Hagatna Pool earlier this month.

Sari Barman and Kevin Guerrero joined the Guam meet for the first time and had impressive debuts, while Aoi Braxton delivered in the Jan. 4 competition.

According to Kimura, Barman just turned 9 years old, but had a strong showing in the Guam meet. She raced in the 50m back and a personal best of 51.77 seconds placing second in the girls 9 to 10 age group. Barman also did the

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Tsunami Saipan's Aoi Braxton competes in the 50m backstroke event the All Island Invitational Long Course Meet at the Hagatna Pool in Guam earlier this month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Blue Haus Alii's Bruce Berline, left, receives the Pacific Amusement gift certificate after getting the Best Player award in their Masters Division game against Islander Rent A Car last Saturday in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saimar Pilot, Blue Haus rip foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saimar Pilot and Blue Haus earned lopsided wins in their respective games in the Masters Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League.

Saimar Pilot defeated PPG Paints, 102-87, last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while Blue Haus walloped Islander Rent A Car last Saturday, 95-60.

Blue Haus notched its

fifth win in as many games, while Islander Rent A Car absorbed its second loss in three matches.

Six players scored in twin digits for Blue Haus' 35-point winning margin. Bruce Berline and Elmer Esdrelon delivered 16 points each, Edwin Santos and Ed Diaz added 15 apiece, and Junar Guiab and Jeff Garcia chipped in 11 each.

Ed Diaz tallied 10 points in the first period, while Ber-

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